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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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COMMUNITY

Residents encouraged to display patriotic themes

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Due to COVID-19, the Veteran Services Department will not have the opportunity to host an in-person Veterans Day Celebration. However, Veterans Agent Troy Brin said the town is still encouraging residents to decorate their homes in patriotic themes from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15.

Veterans Day is Nov. 11.

Brin said the significance of this 15-day observance is “to honor our service members, veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice to our great nation.”

“Facebook users can go to the department’s page for inspiration,” Brin said.

“An event will be placed on the Veteran Services Department Facebook page encouraging people to share photos of their decorations and sending a message to our veterans,” he said. “Additionally, anyone who would like to record a short video thanking our service members and veterans for their service can email to me and I will post it on the Veteran Service Department’s Facebook page.”

VETERANS DAY | page 7

A gourd time was had by all



Turley Publications photos by Jonah Snowden

The Patchens family gets creative with their pumpkin carving at Saturday's Pumpkin Path event. More photos on page 8.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Holland gets over \$250G to combat runoff into lake

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowdne@turley.com

HOLLAND – A serious runoff issue affecting Hamilton Reservoir will be addressed thanks to the town’s share of \$1.4 million in grants distributed across the Commonwealth to combat water pollution.

Six projects are in the works in areas where stormwater runoff and erosion are negatively impacting lakes and other waterways. In Holland, which was awarded \$256,871, runoff from Mountain Road and Sandy Beach will be mitigated.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) applauded the distribution from federal EPA funds.

“I’d like to commend the Town of Holland and MassDEP for all they do to protect Hamilton Reservoir,” Smola said in a statement. “Access to clean water doesn’t happen on its own and I am very appreciative of their efforts.”

The project in Holland received the second highest amount of the EPA-funded grants. The Massachusetts

HOLLAND | page 7

COMMUNITY



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden

Wales Public Library, located on 77 Main St.

Few COVID cases lets Wales Library host patrons

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

WALES – Despite the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wales Public Library continues to stay strong and serve the public.

Because of a relatively small number of COVID-19 cases in the town – five since Oct. 22, according to Mass.gov – Wales Library Director Nancy Baer said they can allow patrons to enter the building and browse the stacks.

“We were not closed for very long,” Baer said. “I talk with the Board of Health regularly. If everybody wears their masks and wash their hands and the books are in a bag to quarantine when they’re done with it, we’re going to be open.”

Since the library reopened in June, a few months after the pandemic began, programs such as the annual summer reading program had to be altered.

“There was no good reason for us not to open,” Baer said.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t do much for [school-oriented read-

EAST-WEST RAIL REPORT

Advocates dispute numbers, tell MassDOT to go forward

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER – The public had its first in-depth look at the draft study of building a rail link connecting Pittsfield to Boston with several stops along the way, including Palmer.

Reaction was mixed. MassDOT officials walked anyone interested through the entire draft, which included three alternatives culled from about a couple dozen, in a 90-minute presentation streamed on Zoom last Thursday evening. It was open to the public and anyone could attend the virtual meeting through the app, or dial in by phone. There were opportunities to ask questions or make a comment. Some local attendees aren’t happy with the draft’s ridership projection, saying the metrics used drastically underestimated the count. MassDOT suggests that a more expensive high-speed rail would boost the ridership forecast.

Local advocates want the state to create a service that wouldn’t be as fast, but would come online faster and at a lower cost than a high-speed rail. They insist there would be enough riders to justify building it.

That estimated ridership number could be revised in the final report due out Nov. 30 and if not, it could be included in one of several subsequent reports MassDOT recommends.

Release of the draft study started the clock on a 30-day public



Courtesy photo

Supporters of a proposed east-west rail link to and from Boston to Pittsfield that includes stops in Springfield and Palmer say ridership projections from MassDOT are too low.

comment period that ends Nov. 19.

“There’s a lot to celebrate, but there are a lot of significant gaps and one is the ridership estimates are too low,” state Sen. Eric Lesser said after the presentation. “Hopefully they’ll take that back and make those updates.”

Lesser, Sen. Anne Gobi, along with town officials and citizen advocates, have been ushering the idea of the new rail line through the early planning phase while working to build support both at the grassroots level, in the Legislature, and with the state’s congressional delegation.

“Experts have weighed in and said the ridership estimates are not accurate and need to be revised,”

Lesser said.

“They used the Hartford to Springfield rail as one of their metrics for comparison. No one would compare Hartford-Springfield to Boston-Pittsfield. Boston is a much bigger city and significantly more congested.”

Ben Hood, co-founder of Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop, is similarly peeved by the metrics and the ridership projections. Both he and Lesser said they suspect MassDOT is purposely low-balling the number so it can ultimately be used as an excuse to scrap the project.

“It’s not comparable,” Hood said this week.

“Now [MassDOT] is play-

ing this game that ‘we studied it and now we want to study it some more.’ Fundamentally, you need to shift the discussion to getting this train service at a reasonable cost so we can get it started. It’s outrageous that you can’t connect the three largest cities in New England.”

Hood said an earlier draft had even lower rider projections that were vigorously challenged.

“They were four-to-five times lower than the only reason they went higher was because of the absolute push-back by planners from around New England,” Hood said.

He takes solace in the hope that there will be a massive federal infrastructure plan in the near future and that some of the funding will be earmarked toward construction of a Boston to Pittsfield railroad. U.S. Rep Richard Neal has previously said he’s in favor of it.

“I think the biggest person we need to work with right now is Congressman Neal,” Hood said. “He is the key.”

The Western Mass Rail Coalition, which is in favor of a moderate speed train that would travel in the neighborhood of 90 mph and could be completed faster and cheaper than a high-speed rail, envisions six round trips a day between Boston, Framingham, Worcester, Palmer, Springfield, Hartford and New Haven with connecting trains from Springfield to Chester, Pittsfield and Albany, New York.

RAIL | page 5

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Todd is committed to our communities.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, he has helped to lead the effort to increase local aid and education funding in the state budget. Todd is a champion for our seniors, veterans and sportsmen and works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a better place for our children and our families.



TODD SMOLA

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT TODD SMOLA



Retiring Highway Supt. John Morrell (left) endorsed town Tree Inspector Ben Murphy as his successor last week.

Murphy appointed to succeed Morrell as highway supt.

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — The town may be losing one of its longest-tenured public servants, but his successor isn't exactly a newbie himself.

Highway Supt. John Morrell is retiring effective Nov. 14. The next day, Tree Warden Ben Murphy will begin serving the remainder of Morrell's three-year term. The position will be on the ballot in Monson's next local election in June.

Following a glowing public endorsement by Morrell, who has served the town in various roles for 52 years, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved Murphy's appointment.

"I want to highly recommend that you appoint Ben Murphy to that position," Morrell said.

"That's why I brought Ben with me tonight. He's got 32 years of experience in the highway department. He's got the respect of all the employees in the department. He's been assigning work on a daily basis since February. And he also set a good example as tree warden. He's done a superb job at doing that. And I'm sure you all are aware that he knows our infrastructure well, like the back of his hand. So you could hit the ground running and there would be a smooth transition in the department for that position."

"Well, first of all, thank you for all your years of service and congratulations on your retirement," board Chairman Dr. Richard Smith said.

Murphy has been with the town for 30 years himself and said he learned at Morrell's knee.

"I'd like to thank John," he said.

"When I started I was 22 years old and I've learned everything I know from him. I know it's basically a legend I'm following. I know I can do the job after learning from him and I think that we're going to be fine. So thank you, John. And I'm ready."

Morrell said knowing the job will be on good hands, even if it's only for the remainder of his term, is comforting.

"It's been hard for me to let go because I've been here so long. But believe me, it makes it a lot easier knowing that he's going to be in that position, that he'll do a good job."

Town Administrator Evan Brassard said he anticipates a "seamless" transition.

"I've been working with Ben for the last six years alongside with John and more so since maybe February and everything runs smoothly," Brassard said.

"Ben gets along great with all the other department heads. I know he has their trust and my trust, too. So it'll be a seamless integration into the system that we're doing. We've been working together on procuring goods for the highway department and stuff like that, so I don't have any concerns with how that's going to run."



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden

100 years old and still going strong

THREE RIVERS — Tuesday, Oct. 27, marked a very special day for Theodore McClosky, who is now officially 100 years old. After attending mass at Divine Mercy Parish, McClosky was presented two certificates, one of which was from Speaker of the Massachusetts House Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop) and State Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren). The other certificate was from Gov. Charles D. Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn E. Polito, who, along with Smola and DeLeo, congratulated McClosky on reaching this milestone.

Disposing of leaves? Here's when you can

Fall (updated) Compost leaf schedule off of Old Warren Rd. Palmer

DATES	TIME
Saturday Oct 31 Sunday, Nov 1	9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 7 Sunday, Nov 8	9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 14 Sunday, Nov 15	9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 21 Sunday, Nov 22	9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 28 Sunday, Nov 29	9 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Courtesy photo

The Monson farm that has been in the Tassinari family for generations is now home to a solar array called "Million Little Sunbeams" that helps power the farm.

Solar technology meets tradition on Monson family farm

MONSON — SunBug Solar recently completed the construction of a dual-use photovoltaic array on a local farm that has been family-owned for three generations.

The solar array, called "Million Little Sunbeams," and owned by Monson native Nate Tassinari and his wife Ania, is the first operational dual-use agricultural photovoltaic system in the area. Generally, solar projects on agricultural land face pushback because traditional solar systems cover the ground in a manner that significantly reduces the amount of available farmland. This project did not face this kind of opposition because a dual-use system doesn't replace crops — it works with them.

"It's a good compromise between the need for innovation and respecting the land," Tassinari said. "Plus, it's my backyard. I want it to be beautiful!"

Just like all operations on the farm, the system must make a profit. Designing Million Little Sunbeams to be the most efficient PV system possible required the use of some advanced technology. The 250 kW system utilizes east-west, single-axis tracking made by Array Technologies. This allows the panels to track the sun as it rises in the east and sets in the west, always positioning the panels for optimal collection of sunlight. In addition, the Million Little Sunbeams project uses bifacial panels from LONGi Solar, which—as the name implies—are two-sided and capture radiation directly from the sun above as well as from the ground and crops below. Crops, such as hay, reflect a significant amount of light back to the underside of the panels; in winter, snow reflects even more light back up to the array.

Finally, power optimizers on each panel mitigate factors such as shading and allow each panel to produce at its maximum level. The optimizers and in-

verters, made by SolarEdge, enable the power from each panel to be tracked individually. This is in contrast to most ground-based solar arrays, where the output of each panel is limited by the output of other panels in the system.

The land where the solar array is located has been in Tassinari's family since his grandmother bought it more than 70 years ago. The neighboring Murphy Dairy Farm, owned and operated by Tassinari's cousins, use the fields to help graze their cattle. The Murphy Farm was established in the 1910s by Tassinari's great grandfather; Thomas F. Murphy. Today, the farm grows hay, produces milk, and now hosts two types of honey-producing bees as well as a young orchard with a variety of fruits, exemplifying the diversity of resources this land generates.

Years ago, Tassinari had worked with SunBug Solar to put solar on his home in Boston, and reached out to SunBug to see what could be done with the land in Monson. When SunBug designed a dual-use solar photovoltaic agricultural solution, Tassinari was able to reconcile tradition with technology, and named the project Million Little Sunbeams.

Tassinari will be able to provide power not just to his own home, but through the SMART program, he will also have the opportunity to sell this green power back to the community. Participants save money on their utility bills by purchasing through MLS, and part of the proceeds will be donated to Norcross Wildlife.

The website for Million Little Sunbeams — Millionlittlesunbeams.com — is scheduled to go live soon. There, interested Monson residents and anyone who has National Grid as their electricity provider will be able to learn more and sign up to purchase energy fresh from the farm.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Monson groups can apply for grants by Nov. 16

The Monson Cultural Council is seeking grant proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and

festivals and must take place between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021.

Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application. The deadline for applications is Nov. 16.

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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NEW SHERIFF'S DEPT. TRAINEES

Wet noses, wagging tails – can't lose



Courtesy Photos: From left, the new Hampden County Sheriff's Emotional Support Division, including Handler Maribeth Moss and Tess; Handler Stephanie Fahey and Molly; Handler Trudy Wagner and Jazz, ahead of a press conference at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office on Oct. 20. (HCSO Photo)

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

LUDLOW – To boost the spirits of his staff as well as the people in their care and custody, Sheriff Nick Cocchi of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department recently added three therapy dogs to his roster.

The new department members are named Tess, Jazz, and Molly. "These animals have the ability to decrease the tension in the room and relieve anxiety with just their presence," Cocchi said in a statement.

"It really is remarkable. Expanding the team of therapy dogs just made sense given our evolving role in the community and the various groups of people we engage."

Robert Rizzuto, communications specialist for the department, said this is something Cocchi wanted to do back in 2016 and began to successfully implement this initiative with their first therapy dog, Brooklyn.

Therapy Dog Trainer Nina Valentino said both the handlers and the dogs receive special training.

Tess, Jazz, and Molly have "definitely seen a positive impact with the staff," Rizzuto said.

"It can be a relatively intense moment and a dog walks in and everybody instantly reacts to them positively. It's the same with the inmates in our care. There's people who are wrestling with a variety of issues from anger management to substance use. Doing time is not necessarily easy, but when a dog is part of the treatment, everybody responds positively."

As of now, the three dogs are still actively training. Valentino said the training is specific to each dog's intended role.

"We mostly work on obedience [and] people care, because a lot of time, the handlers practice training their dogs with my supervision so that they can learn their cues, or when they're tired, or when they need a break," Valentino said.



Therapy Dog Jazz of the new HCSO Emotional Support Division visits with Primary Captain Karen Pitts at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office in Ludlow. (HCSO Photo)

"The key is ensuring that their manners are appropriate so that they're not overwhelming people and for the handlers to make sure the handler can understand when the dog is communicating back."

Here are the dogs' bios and some information about their handlers according to the sheriff's department:

- Molly: A 4-year-old lab who is loving and loves being petted, is handled by Stephanie Fahey, a mental health clinician with the department since 2017. "Since many of the citizens who come to us are battling addiction and mental health issues, it just made sense to have a therapy dog trained to work with them," Fahey said. "Molly will be helping Stephanie with group and individual therapy with the men and women in our care."

- Tess: This 4-year-old lab is considered a sweet dog who seems

to love everyone she encounters. Labs often make great therapy or service animals because they are intelligent, adaptable, and have an even-keeled nature. Tess partners with Maribeth Moss, a registered nurse with the department since 2007. Since "going to the doctor" can be stressful, Moss said, "Tess brings comfort to the people in our care when they are getting medical treatment and procedures, as well as the staff."

- Jazz: A 2-year-old hound that came from Fluvanna County, Va. She was found as a stray there and lived a few months at a shelter before being selected for the program. She is very sweet and loves meeting new people. She is handled by Trudy Wagner, a member of the Training Department since 2014. "Jazz is here primarily for the staff and we hope to incorporate her more in our community-based programs once COVID-19 restrictions allow for such interactions," Wagner said.



Courtesy photo

Palmer Lions donate shields to first responders

The Palmer Lions Club has donated much needed personal protection to first responders in town. President George Richardson and John Theofane delivered 25 NIH DTM-3.1 Face Shields to each of the following: Bonds-ville Fire Department, Three Rivers Fire Department, Palmer Fire Department, Palmer Ambulance, and Palmer Police. Leveraging a \$10,000 Emergency Grant from Lions Club International, the Harvard MA Lions and leaders from Lions District 33A were able to make the masks available for towns in District 33A. The masks are 10mil thick heavy-duty visor with a padded and adjustable headband. The shields also are capable of being sanitized and are reusable.



Courtesy photo

New equipment for Palmer FD

The Palmer Fire-Rescue Department recently took delivery of a new pumper, a 2020 Smeal/Spartan built in Snyder, Neb. This new pumper replaced a 1989 Maxim Pumper with 30 years of service to

the community. The old pumper was placed in temporary service with the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Bridgewater. Palmer Fire District No.1 voters approved the \$627,000.00 expenditure for the

new pumper at last year's meeting. Part of this planned expenditure was funded by the Fire District's available cash on hand and the remainder was financed. This custom pumper took one year to build.

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Viewpoints

GUEST OPINION

Protecting quality vocational technical education

By Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

As Massachusetts policymakers craft a new plan to protect or enhance base school aid, it is paramount that such a plan identifies new revenue sources to fund it.

At this juncture, any plan to reconfigure Chapter 70 calculations must consider the Commonwealth's serious revenue shortfalls that were predicted in the Oct. 7 economic summit at the State House. There is no doubt that the current financial situation requires difficult conversations regarding possible new revenue streams, including the stop-gap use of future federal stimulus funds or accessing the Commonwealth's rainy day funds. Any plan to create a down payment for the Student Opportunity Act, justifiably targeted to the most needy students and disadvantaged populations, would be less disruptive with the benefit of clearly identified revenue sources.

In their recent report, the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce present a compelling argument against maintaining current levels of needs-blind formula factors within Chapter 70 calculations. Rather than identify new revenue streams, however, they suggest simply reallocating existing funding by eliminating some of the factors which result in a consistent level of funding to wealthier communities, arguing that these communities should be able to afford supporting their schools without state aid.

As the president of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, I can attest to a level of justified fear that the blanket removal of the hold-harmless provision would cause massive disruption among many school districts experiencing a decline in enrollments. In those districts where this trend has been long-term, the negative economic impact would be even more significant. The current COVID-19 situation has certainly exacerbated the flight from local schools to private or home-school learning environments, putting more lower-resourced school districts at even greater risk of enrollment declines than has been experienced generally across the Commonwealth.

As a school administrator with 28 years of field-based experience in a 13-town regional school district, I recognize that in the quest for relationships and revenue, cooperation should outweigh competition. Therefore, I advocate for a middle-ground approach which analyzes the impact of removing the hold harmless provision in the FY22 Chapter 70 base calculation in tandem with an in-depth analysis of the ability of each of the 351 cities and towns to pay. Just as public health officials determined that it was necessary to expand the color-coded indicators of COVID-19 status in order to more accurately gauge a community's readiness to reopen, state reviewers should expand the wealth indicators that comprise the calculation of a community's ability to pay. A municipality's wealth factor should be based on more detailed economic indicators, with any adjustments to the hold harmless factor made solely in relation to these expanded wealth considerations. This may well result in an adjustment to the base funding to those communities which can afford it, but would maintain the current level of hold harmless funding or some reasonable percentage of it for less wealthy communities.

Proceeding in this fashion will increase the likelihood of garnering support from a wider array of constituencies.

Dr. Fitzpatrick is superintendent-director of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (Upton, Mass.) and a resident of Monson.



Dr. Fitzpatrick

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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Crocus: a great spring pick me up

When I was a kid we had crocus growing in a rock garden behind our house. They bloomed religiously, year after year, with little effort on our part. As a young adult working at Old Sturbridge Village, I saw a lot of crocus there, too. I loved to look for the bright yellows and purples in the Towne and Fitch gardens, and even inside the homes when they were forced into bloom in really neat porcelain hedgehogs, modeled after period forcing pots! Hedgehogs aside, I haven't had the same luck growing crocus in my own garden. Let's take a crash course on crocus culture so that this harbinger of spring will be happy enough to stick around in my landscape and yours.

Crocuses are hardy throughout most of the continental United States, zones 3-8. Northern gardeners love that they tolerate frost so well, and given the right circumstances will actually do better here than if planted in warmer climates. In fact, those who garden in the South often enjoy crocus for only a single season, making them more of an annual instead of the perennial we are accustomed to.

Most crocus species prefer a location that mimics their native habitat: one in which winters are moist and summers are dry. This is because they, and others that fall under the category of "spring flowering bulbs," go through a period of dormancy during the summer months. Since they are resting and not actively growing, they need to be kept dry; excess moisture will cause them to rot.

A full sun to partial shade situation is best for crocus and will encourage them to produce prolific, strong blossoms. Remember just how early in the season they bloom; many locations that wouldn't work in summer are just fine in March-, under deciduous trees, for example, since they have yet to produce their leaves.

Plant crocus corms in the autumn, at least 4 to 6 weeks before the ground

freezes solid. These "modified stems" should be sunk twice as deep as they are thick, usually about four inches underground. Keep them that same distance apart from one another. Sometimes it is difficult to tell which end is "up." Examine the corm carefully and you will likely

notice the start of a shoot or two poking through a fibrous, papery covering on one side and a base plate with the remnants of the previous year's roots on the other. Now that you know what to look for, planting them correctly is easy.

New crocus corms form above old corms each year. Keep a bed of crocus thriving by digging them up during dormancy and replanting them at the proper depth every third or fourth year. Tiny "cormlets" can be divided from the mother plant during this time as well. Usually they will take four or more years to produce blossoms.

Crocus corms are especially tasty to rodents. There are all kinds of tactics one can use to try and keep the buggers from eating them. Some gardeners go through the trouble of making little cages out of chicken wire and planting the corms inside. Others surround the corms with sharp gravel to discourage the animal from digging them up. There are also a number of deterrents, natural and otherwise, on the market that may be worth a try if you have a severe enough problem.

Now that I've had a refresher course on the basic requirements for crocus growing, I'll likely try again. Hopefully you will too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Letters to the Editor

In defense of Mary Hull

Before I begin, I would like to commend the Monson Police Department for their professionalism during the "America First Rally" in Monson.

I was at the "America First Rally" in Monson that was reported in the Journal Register. I am surprised at the complaint lodged against Mary Hull who holds a seat on the Monson Board of Selectmen and the Monson Board of Health. I do not know the two complainants other than their names and that a narrative was reported by the *Journal Register*.

This is what I observed at the rally and the interaction I had with both pro-Trump and pro-Biden participants: Mary Hull conducted herself in a polite and professional manner to all attending that day. Did Mary Hull create a controversy by not wearing a mask? There was no complaint that I was aware of to the police or town government officials against Mary Hull. Over half of the rally attendees were not wearing face masks.

The rally attendees conducted themselves in a courteous and orderly manner with the exception of a counter protester who came to disrupt the rally by throwing the American flag on the ground and walking on it. This person had a loud speaker and was making statements to counter the "American First Rally." Additionally, he had a sign that said "Sharia Law" and was approaching participants trying to get a reaction to his obvious anti-flag and anti-rally theme. I have photos to support this. At the end of the rally, he was arrested by the Monson Police Department.

During the rally, I had the opportunity to speak with many interesting and courteous people. The pro-Trump attendees were many and the pro-Biden attendees were few. I spoke to Selectman Ed Harrison, who attended the rally holding a Biden-Harris political sign on the other side of the street from the pro-Trump attendees. Selectman Harrison wore a face mask and I wore a face mask. We had a nice conversation for a few minutes.

According to the Journal Register's article, Karen Valley, a pro-Biden supporter, complained that the people across the street (referring to the pro-Trump supporters) were not standing 6 to 8 feet apart as called for by state and federal guidelines. All the pro-Biden supporters wore face masks and stood together. They were not standing 6 feet apart. I also have photos to support this.

Only a few of the pro-Trump supporters wore masks and they were not standing 6 feet apart with the exception of a few that did. (Why did Karen Valley make this such an issue? Everyone was outside with the sun shining on a beautiful day).

While attending the "America First Rally," I was surprised not to see any reporters from Channel 40 or Channel 22 or from any newspapers.

After reading an article by Michael Harrison, the new managing editor for the Journal Register Newspaper about a controversy at the rally weeks later, I felt I had to comment about the complaint against Mary Hull. Is this possibly political because she helped the organizers of the rally, which was overwhelmingly pro-Trump?

The other reason for the complaint was because she does not wear a face mask in public or at meetings. Every day people walk up and down Main Street without wearing masks but when they enter the town hall or a business, they put on their masks. If Mary Hull does not wear a face mask in public, that is her right to do so. There is not a Massachusetts General Law stopping her from not wearing a mask.

Do I think there are some areas where she should wear a mask? The answer is YES. However, I do not support draconian measures targeting the general public or businesses. A commonsense approach to this issue is needed. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health should mandate a mask-wearing policy in their own meetings. I believe this would be a good precautionary policy inside a building.

Yesterday, I stopped at a grocery store and while shopping for 15 minutes, I saw four people shopping without wearing a mask. These people were putting others at risk if they were COVID-19 positive or asymptomatic. The store policy stated that everyone should wear a mask but it is not enforced. We all know that wearing a face mask for long periods of time can be very uncomfortable and at times difficult to breathe if you have a respiratory condition, particularly if you are using an N95 mask that gives you better protection from the virus. Bandanas, cheap cloth and paper masks give you and others very little protection. If you are sick or cannot wear a mask, stay home so you do not put others at risk.

Please note that I ran for selectman against Mary Hull in June and was defeated.

Robert Kaddy,
Monson

Climate change: Understand it, then adapt to it

The climate changes throughout our world that we have witnessed in the past 25 years have been at times pervasive and not very subtle.

Climate change is a feat. Yet what is causing this phenomenon and its ramifications are reported to us by those who in one camp or another do their best to promote their own agenda. Air pollution, fossil fuels and other admissions are shown as the root causes. Yet in truth, they have little to do with climate change and everything to do with air pollution. There is a difference.

Junk science is a half truth that has both feet planted firmly in mid air. In essence there is lots of noise and smoke, little substance. It's time we put it aside and start looking at what we know, but have ignored for too long.

The planet's mechanics and their affects are there for us to see. It doesn't take too long a look

at Monument Valley in the Southwest before you realize it had been an ocean bottom and the buttes and mesas once islands in a lost sea. The evidence that things were changing became all too apparent to me over 20 years ago, when a group of young people

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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RAIL I from page 1

Major points

Although a handful of public officials attended the meeting, most of the 145 people who logged on for it were private citizens. Using slides to highlight the study's findings and conclusions, the presenters explained their methods, and seemed to be making a conscious effort to distill some technical data into language more accessible to people not familiar with planning and government jargon.

Cost estimates varied among the alternatives from \$2.4 to \$4.6 billion. Sophie Cohen, who works with the consulting firm hired to assist MassDOT with the study, was tasked with providing the benefit-cost analysis. She provided a snapshot of how she arrived at her findings.

"We look at a handful of the benefits," she said.

"One is travel time. And it's based on the ridership we are expecting to get for each of the alternatives, as well as how much time they are expected to save on average per rider. We add all of those up, and then we apply a federally provided value of travel time savings. Similarly, for safety, really for safety – for most of the rest of the categories, safety, vehicle operating cost savings, pavement damage – we are calculating the automobile vehicle miles traveled that would be saved by people taking rail instead, and applying some values for how many car accidents we think that will prevent, how much pavement, maintenance and gas and all of that, damage to the roadway and automobile emissions. On the flip side of that, we do also have to take into consideration the fact that there's some of those things associated with the additional rail. There's a risk of additional rail incidents. Risk of additional emissions associated with the rail. That's all taken into account here as well. And then we add all of that up."

Ethan Britland, MassDOT co-project manager, said even more data is needed to give state lawmakers who will ultimately if the project goes forward a more accurate forecast of the impact.

"So we wanted to recommend that more detailed study of economic and community benefits is conducted," Britland said.

"We looked at the alternatives in the context of a BCA because that's the federal process for competitive funding. But we understand that there are other things such as the transformative nature of a west-east rail service: jobs, real estate, housing. So we understand that there are other things that could be looked at in more detail. And so while this study identified opportunities, benefits, impacts and challenges for west to east passenger rail service, MassDOT acknowledges that there's further planning phase work that's necessary to better understand some of the unknowns before we can initiate a project."

Asked during the question and answer period what kind of additional data needs to be studies, Britland said it's a



Courtesy photo

The public has until Nov. 19 to make an official comment with MassDOT on the proposed rail link that would have stops in Springfield and Palmer.

broad spectrum to gauge both the potential impact and public interest.

"So just reading off of the recommendations and the study itself, conducting surveys of both businesses and residents to understand market conditions. Riders demographics, fare sensitivity and other market factors," he said. [MassDOT would] work with the business community across the commonwealth and conduct additional analysis to better understand and articulate the full range of potential economic benefits. This includes trying to understand post-COVID the new normal conditions. Working with local and regional governments, community members to facilitate land use decisions, new development supports and supported by rail transportation and that can make travel without automobiles more viable."

Britland also mentioned "Neighborhood workshops on community impacts, such as grade crossing and rail crossings. And so as we find out more information, we can update all of that."

Making their pitch

Chester Selectman Rich Holzman and Finance Committee member Bob Daley both talked about what creating the rail line will mean for their town. Daley, who said Chester would be "the future rail hub for the 21 hill towns," even borrowed from a famous Winston Churchill speech and injected a bit of snark – and some anger – to make his point.

"Sisters and brothers of the fellowship of the rail, this is not even the beginning of the end. Just the end of the beginning. We will be successful by going forward from this result without loss of enthusiasm. We can not have come this far after two years' time and treasure spent to be left at the intersection of more studies and no action. We believe the MassDOT BCA, benefit-cost analysis should have been viewed as the BCA, known as the Benefit Commonwealth Analysis in which immediate of

implementation and ridership projections leading to transformative economic rebirth, rather priority values," Daley said.

"Equality of access, liberty of mobility, fraternity of connectivity is what our people need now. And future generations will require to maintain Massachusetts leadership in our nation. We urge MassDOT to set an 18-month urgency of now timeline for a phase one and deploy existing DMU train sets for daily inter-community service in Western Massachusetts. And in 75 years the MBTA has expanded to include 400 miles of track through 175 communities, with 141 stations. None -- none west of Worcester. It's not right. It's not just. It can not stand."

Holzman followed with a narrative on a trend he believes more than validates creating passenger rail service.

"Right now we've had one of the biggest real estate booms that have gone on here in years because people aren't talking about weekend homes," Holzman said. "They are talking about homes where they share time. They live – they live basically half the week in – a portion of the week in the east and a portion of the week in the west, working at -- in both places to achieve economic vitality and a safer and healthier living with a higher quality of life. So I urge you, please. You have done fine work to this point but let's not get bogged down in a lot of further study that will just slow the whole rate of implementation."

Ludlow resident Andre Ferrara said he's an example of someone who prefer to ride a train to work rather than drive.

"I commute to right outside of Government Station in Boston daily. And I see the one hour and 37 minute mark for the best option from Springfield to Boston," he said.

"And if you look at the time that it takes to actually drive to Boston it is convincing to actually use the rail. Now, I know you used existing numbers that you guys have for commuting

to forecast what the ridership would be, but that doesn't take into consideration where, if you could reduce the time on these trips, it would actually drive up the use and decrease carbon emissions for people taking trains versus rail."

He also expressed a desire to see the state prioritize "Western Mass a little bit more."

Donald Blais, a Palmer resident who has helped push for the study, said he wants less talk and more action.

"I'm glad that Palmer is listed in all three of these options. I'm very glad to see that our advocacy has been working thus far. You know, personally, I want to go with the faster option. So if -- I guess that's hybrid 4/5, but in terms of what was said at the end in the last slide, I understand that there's further studies that have to be done on this, but in terms of economic and community impacts, I know that Palmer and UMass came up with a study last year before the world went south and I know that that was presented to the committee. I don't know if that was taken into account. I hope it was because there is growth opportunity here in Palmer and the region," Blais said. He concluded with an impassioned statement.

"We can't delay any longer," Blais said.

"It was bad enough before the pandemic hit. It's worse now. The budgetary, the economic impacts, we are going to be feeling if not already. So we can't keep pushing further down the road. I'm glad Palmer is on all three options. I want to go faster option, but any option that includes Palmer and the surrounding region will be great for this area, because we are going to need it to get out of the damage from this pandemic. And so to everyone involved with this, thank you. I know there's more to be done. We are lucky to have some great advocates in the legislature. I know Senator Gobi is on the call and Representative Smola. Everyone, you have done a good job and you have to keep going forward to make this a reality."

Lesser reiterated after the presentation that he sees too many positive benefits not to see this through to completion.

"Of course it is a complicated project it will be an expensive project, but a project that will transform our state and create exciting opportunities for our families," he said. "And this project would be the single largest positive thing you can do for the environment by taking hundreds of thousands of cars off the road."

Want to be heard?

To go on record with MassDOT with your comments about the proposed new rail line, including a Palmer station, go to mass.gov/east-westpassenger-rail-study. The deadline to register a comment is Nov. 19.

Want to know more?

To find out what local advocates of the plan are doing and how you can get involved, visit the Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop at palmertrain.org.

Online auction helping pets

EAST BROOKFIELD – The end is drawing near for the Second Chance DinnerLESS Auction, which means it's time for supporters to start bidding on some great items normally reserved for the live auction finale.

"Year after year, there's a group of supporters who donate items for the much-anticipated live auction because helping pets in need is so important to them," said Second Chance Development Director Lindsay Doray. "While we're so disappointed that we won't be together as the auction paddles raise around the room due to COVID, the bidding in our online grand finale auction is just starting to get lively." Doray is grateful for every bid in a year where pets need help more than ever.

"For years, Eunice Jones has donated a week's stay at Big Sky Resort in Montana. This popular trip sleeps six in gorgeous condo accommodations. Making its third auction appearance is the Cannes for Rent donated by Second Chance volunteer Maria McDonnell featuring a seven-night stay for two in an adorable apartment in Cannes, France." JetBlue has also once again donated two round trip domestic tickets.

For those staying closer to home, the Hampden County Sheriff's Office has donated two handcrafted solid wood Adirondack chairs that have been getting a lot of attention and there's a sophisticated Vera Bradley set donated by longtime supporter Klem's.

For collectors, there's a baseball signed by Brandon Workman donated by the Red Sox (when Workman was a pitcher for the Red Sox,) and a seven-book collection signed by W. Bruce Cameron, author of the New York Times bestseller, "A Dog's Purpose."

Brand new to the auction this year is a local restaurant gift card package valued at over \$380 that was originally planned as a super raffle item.

New items are still coming in and Doray encourages bidders to check back and see what's new. The online auction continues through Nov. 1. The proceeds from every winning bid supports all the Second Chance programs that help pets in need.

Doray expressed gratitude to all who donated the item and to the sponsors for their support when the event was moved online. "The DinnerLESS Auction was made possible by the generous support of RE/MAX realtor Wendy Johnson in loving memory of Pam Crawford, who was a longtime supporter of Second Chance who devoted her life to her family and to helping people find a home. She will be greatly missed by all.

Interested supporters can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org for links to each block of auction items and they'll also find this year's DinnerLESS Auction video with a look back at the nonprofit's work in 2019, an update on COVID-19 efforts along with behind the scenes footage and some adorable Second Chance alumni.



Courtesy photo

Project Good Dog students Nina and Yotahala. Nina recently graduated and is at the Second Chance Adoption Center in East Brookfield, and the money raised through the DinnerLESS auction helps take care of many different animals, including these two dogs.

LETTER I from page 4

from Hampshire College caught a strange looking fish aboard my vessel "SEA WITCH" we could not believe our eyes. It was a wahoo – a fish that lives in Southern waters. What was this fish doing in the middle of Cape Cod Bay? The answers became apparent over the years, as we begin a study of fish

migrations along the Atlantic seaboard. Their migration patterns were changing, yet the answers remained hidden until we took a close look at the charts and noted that the magnetic field had shifted to the west at an annual increase. All along the entire eastern quadrant, the lines of magnetic energy were shifting.

What this shows us is that the Gulfstream is moving inshore with a force that is changing our weather as well as our lives.

Armadillos ramble through central South Carolina and Turkey buzzards are seen almost daily in the skies of western Massachusetts. What are we, or what can we do are questions that are best answered in a few words. First we must understand it. Then, we do what we have done through time. We adapt.

Robert R Singleton
Palmer

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Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden

Meadows Driving School, located on 1240 Park St., Palmer.

Driving school changes owners and still in experienced hands

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – What started off as Derrick Mason helping his brother Kyle Mason learn to drive his manual shift car and a motivational conversation with his mother-in-law Bernadette Roach turned into a near decade long career with his wife, Angela Mason, as co-owners of Palmer's Meadow Driving School Inc.

The couple recently turned the wheel over to new owners Geof, Jonathan and Maria Spear.

"I had never even through about it until she had said something," said Derrick. "I kind of went out on a limb and called all of the driving schools around, to see what the steps would be to become an instructor. That's when East Longmeadow's Meadows Driving School had been the only one that called me back."

After starting off at East Longmeadow's branch as an instructor in 2010, Derrick said he showcased his passion for instructing the students to the extent that the school would branch out to the Palmer area. That he was a Monson resident made a difference in his favor.

"I discussed it with Angela and we decided to buy it," said Derrick. The Palmer's Meadow Driving School opened in 2011.

Angela, who also served as an instructor for the school and has teaching experience under her belt, said a reason why they opened the school was to help their community "have safer roads" by mentoring new drivers.

"There was a big draw that it was an educational opportunity for the kids in our community and that they would be to carry what we gave them for the rest of their driving careers," said Angela.

"We remembered our driver's ed program and that transition of getting a license and felt like that was a monumental part of life that we could support. There's always somebody turning 16."

During their time educating, Derrick said, "the thought of getting in the car with a brand-new driver that doesn't have a license is not for everybody."

Regardless, because of his experience driving, instructing was not too difficult for him.

"I always had to stay like three to five steps ahead of the kids, so knowing that I was able to do that gave me the confidence. It made it a lot easier for them to learn, in my opinion, because I stayed calm and patient," Derrick said.

"We really prided ourselves on staying calm and patient and letting the kids become the drivers that they could be, instead of us telling them that they need to be drivers that they should be."

Regarding why the two decided to give up ownership of the school, Angela said one reason is because "There are personal passions that we want to seek outside of the driving school."

"It was very demanding, in the amount of time that it took from us and our family," Angela said.

"We have two kids (Madeline and Annika Mason) that are currently being homeschooled and that



Courtesy photo

Angela and Derrick Mason are a wife and husband team who until recently operated Palmer's Meadow Driving School Inc. They turn the wheel over to new owners earlier this month.

is something that we really want to shift our focus on."

Temporarily cancelling several lessons due to the COVID-19 pandemic also was a factor for the Masons' decision.

As of Oct. 7, Geof, Jonathan and Maria Spear are the new owners of the driving school and they bring 30 years of experience to the business.

"They've pretty much taught me and Angela a lot of what we know," Derrick said.

STCC transfer program helps Monson immigrant achieve dream

SPRINGFIELD — Four years ago, Helder Serrazina left his home in Portugal and moved to Western Massachusetts with a dream of getting an education and pursuing his goal of owning a chain of hotels.

Serrazina, now a Monson resident, started at Springfield Technical Community College, which served as the perfect gateway to higher education. He's now enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and seeking a degree from Isenberg School of Management.

Serrazina recently looked back at his two years at STCC, where he earned an associate degree in business administration through the business transfer program in May 2020.

STCC afforded him opportunities he could only dream about when he was growing up in Setúbal, Portugal. He said STCC is much more affordable than colleges or universities in his home country.

"I began working when I was 16," Serrazina, now 32, said. "I started studying at some point, but I couldn't afford it, and had to drop out."

He settled in Western Massachusetts because it's where his husband has roots. His first two years after his arrival were frantic, as he had to complete immigration paperwork and navigate legal requirements, among other hurdles. But he kept his focus on his goal: Getting an education. Serrazina's husband recommended STCC as a great place to start on a pathway to a degree.

"Here, the opportunity to get an education presented itself to me in a way that Portugal never did," he said.

At STCC, he found the community college to be not only affordable but chock full of opportunities. The business transfer degree is offered online, which allowed for the flexibility he needed. He applied for and won the Jean and Jim Genasci Honorary Scholarship, which is awarded to LGBT students who demonstrate how they actively serve as a leader or role model and promote the goals of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

That and other scholarships helped keep the costs down and Serrazina graduated from STCC with a manageable student loan to pay off.

At a scholarship ceremony in 2019, a year before he graduated, Serrazina was asked to be the featured speaker. He reflected on the concept of education and its transformative power. He called education "truly the only way forward."

Serrazina offers thoughtful and reflective answers when asked a b o u t



Helder Serrazina

what brought him to STCC and how a degree can transform his life.

"When I resumed my higher studies and went back to college in 2018 at STCC, I thought this is really about learning all the skills I needed to make sure that I will become the best entrepreneur and businessman possible," Serrazina said.

"It's really about the power of inner choice and really being in tune with what you want to do for your life in the long term. It is really about determination and resolve. I think anyone can do it. Anyone can get into Harvard starting from STCC. It's really about putting together a master plan and sticking to it."

Serrazina said he was grateful to the professors and faculty at STCC who supported him and encouraged him not to give up, including professors Gail Olmsted, Rhoda Belemjian and Ann Gervais.

"All three of them were instrumental for my growth in business, and I would not be here without them," he said.

"I truly recommend their classes because they are wonderful women, with their own values and skills, and they will do the world for anybody. There were times when I doubted myself, and they never let me stay behind. They kept pulling me back up."

Gervais recommends the STCC Business Transfer program for anyone looking for an affordable pathway to bachelor's degree at institutions like Isenberg.

"The STCC Business Transfer program combines a strong foundation of business core courses with robust liberal arts offerings, to ready a student like Helder for Isenberg," Gervais said.

"Our program is designed within the parameters of the Mass Transfer A2B (associate to bachelor's) requirements to ensure that driven students like Helder are

well prepared for the rigor of the UMass program, all Massachusetts public universities, as well as other AACSB accredited programs in the area."

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business is the oldest and largest accreditor of business schools in the United States.

As he has since he first started at STCC in 2018, Serrazina continues to keep a busy schedule. In addition to studying for a degree at Isenberg, he and his husband are raising two boys, ages 13 and 8. He works at a Chicopee hotel full time, doing a job he's passionate about and getting the hands-on experience he needs when he opens his own hotel which he hopes will happen within the next year.

"I'm grateful to STCC for giving me an affordable and quality education," he said. "My life certainly would be different if I didn't find STCC."

Want to know more?

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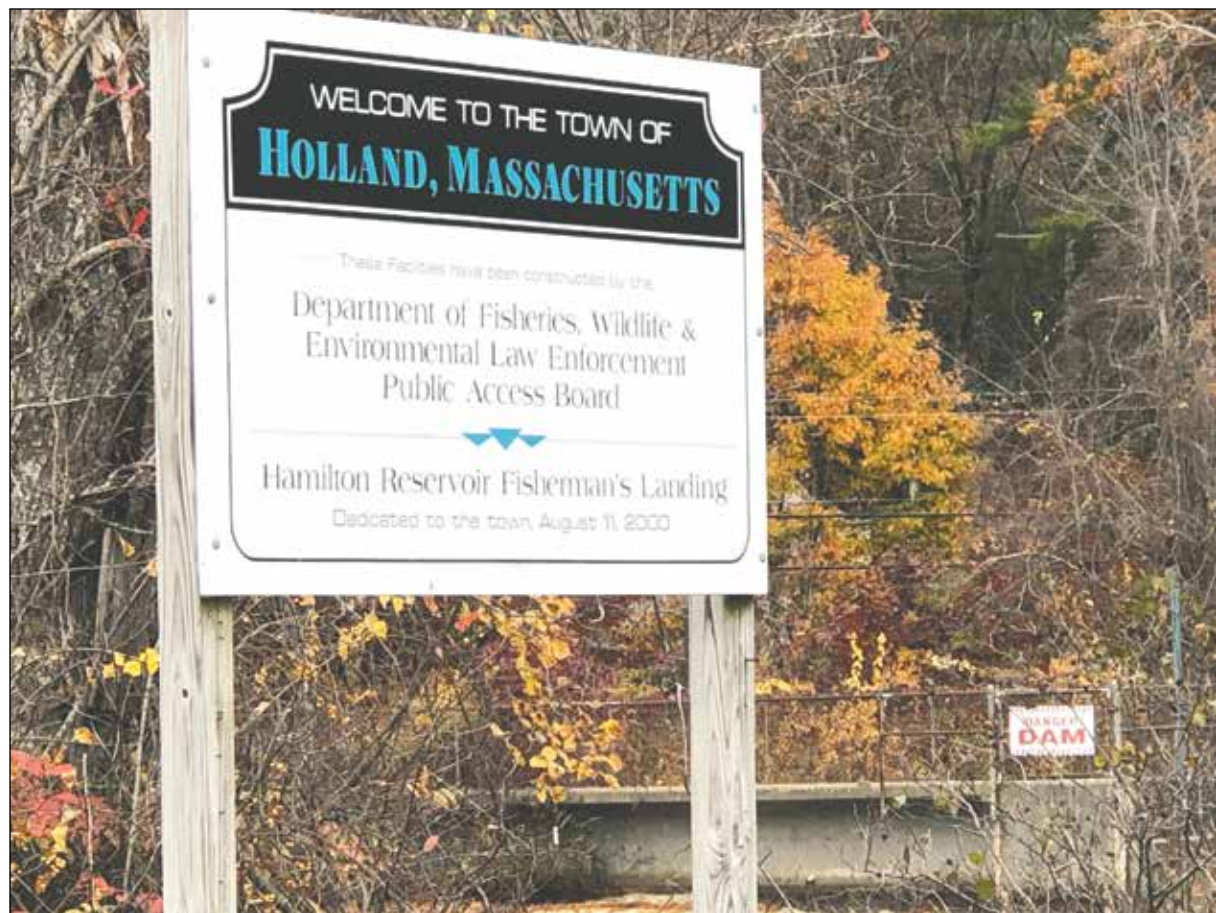
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Like in other areas, runoff has impacted the quality of Hamilton Reservoir in Holland. The town's portion of a federal grant is intended to mitigate runoff from Mountain Road and Sandy Beach.

HOLLAND I from page 1

setts Association of Conservation Districts was awarded \$259,000

To support a coordinator to work with farmers in the Connecticut, Deerfield and Westfield River watersheds.

"Addressing the effects of polluted storm water runoff on Massachusetts waterways is vital to protect both the environment and public health," Gov. Charlie Baker said in a statement.

"Through these grants, we are able to work with the federal government to provide our local and regional partners with the resources needed to improve water quality," Baker also stated.

"These water protection

grants will help local and regional officials identify storm water issues and address them promptly," Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said.

This grant program focuses on measures to control non-point source pollution to surface and groundwater. NPS contamination comes from a variety of sources, including rainfall or snowmelt, which carries pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers, trash, and animal feces into waterways.

"NPS pollution can occur anywhere and is typically most prevalent in areas where land development, ranging from cities to suburban backyards to farm fields, has altered local hydrology and in-

creased the amount of pollutants that can be carried into water bodies by storm water runoff," Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Edmund Colletta said.

"For this reason, the management of NPS pollution in Massachusetts is a statewide challenge requiring a cooperative effort between government agencies, private organizations, and the public."

For more information on the project, visit mass.gov.

Grants up to \$10,000 available to local small businesses

The Town of Palmer is leading a regional Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, awarding up to \$10,000 to eligible area businesses that have experienced financial loss due to Covid-19 and the associated shut downs.

Eligible businesses must have five employees or fewer (including the owner), must have been in business since Jan. 1, 2019, and must be able to demonstrate revenue loss caused by the pandemic. The business owner's family income must fall within certain limits. Other eligibility requirements apply.

The Town of Palmer was awarded \$700,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant

funds. The money is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Federal CARES Act and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development) for this regional program. The Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation, located in Ware, is administering the program locally.

"We are grateful to the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to have this opportunity to assist our region's small businesses during this very difficult time," says Sarah Szczebak, community development director for the Town of

Palmer.

"We encourage all eligible small businesses in these seven towns to apply for a Microenterprise Assistance Grant."

Applications for the program became available on Oct. 16. Grant awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. Applications are available on the QVDCD website at QVDCD.org. Paper copies of the application are also available at the QVDCD office in Ware.

To learn more about the Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, contact Melissa Fales at melissa@qvcdc.org or 413-967-3001.

WALES I from page 1

ing] this summer. We didn't do any formal things this year because of the virus. The school system did have some required reading for the junior high and high school kids. We made sure we had those books."

Patrons are allowed in, but Baer said if anybody is uncomfortable with entering the building they can request books and have them brought outside at a scheduled time.

"For the most part, we're small enough so that we know who our people are, but if we didn't, we would require them to identify themselves," said Baer.

Baer has also been attempting to start up her weekly Storytime again, even though for about two weeks in a row, she has not received any visitors.

"If somebody were to show up, I will certainly read to them," she said. Traditionally, Storytimes are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays but "If some four-year-old showed up at four o'clock on Thursday and wanted a story, I would read for them."

Children over age 2 are required to wear a mask to participate.

For more information, or to contact the library, visit townofwales.net/library and keep up to date through the library's Facebook page.

VETERANS DAY I from page 1

Wreathes will also be laid with patriotic decorations at the following sites:

- Book Memorial (Converse Middle School) - Palmer
- Bell Memorial (Next to the post office) - Bonds-ville
- Junction Memorial (Across from the Junction Variety Store) - Thorndike
- Hryniewicz Memorial (Across from Three Rivers Fire Department) - Three Rivers

Also on Veteran's Day, Town Hall will be lit in red, white and blue.

"We hope people will join us in celebrating our service members, veterans and their families on this Veterans Day," Brin said. "Albeit, a challenging time for our nation, commonwealth and town, our service members and veterans deserve our display of gratitude for their service to our great nation and prosperous way of life. Any gesture to display support is greatly appreciated."

For more information on the event, visit the department's Facebook page or email Brin at trbin@townofpalmer.com.

RMV extends hours for those 75 and older

The RMV is extending designated Wednesday appointment hours for customers 75 years of age or older through November and December.

This new customer service option began in early September at select RMV Service Centers, and is now offered at the 17 following locations: Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

The senior hours are held on Wednesdays (hours vary by location) for customers 75 years of age or older whose driver's license or ID card expire in September, October, November and December including customers whose licenses or IDs were originally extended earlier this year and are expired.

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Pumpkin Path



Hitchcock Free Academy's Pumpkin Path event gave the opportunity for families to have some quality time outdoors and getting festive for Halloween.



Trinity Petrillo shows off some of the seeds she dug out of her pumpkin before getting down to some carving.



Melissa and Caser Blier put all their focus into creating the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern.

Nick Sokol gets his hands dirty with some pumpkin guts – just the thing to get you in the Halloween spirit.

A gourd time was had by all

BRIMFIELD – On Saturday, Oct. 24, parents and guardians were given the opportunity to put their pumpkin carving skills to the test with their kids at Hitchcock Free Academy's socially distanced Pumpkin Path event. Besides pumpkin carving and decorating, there were other family-friendly events to get everyone in the mood for Halloween.

Turley Publications
photos by Jonah Snowden



TJ and Kasney Bibeau having some father-daughter time at at Hitchcock Free Academy's Pumpkin Path event.



Dad supervises while son carves when Austin and Paul Clapp visited the Pumpkin Path Held Saturday at Hitchcock Free Academy.

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CROSS COUNTRY

Boys edge Belchertown



Danny Fiester picks up the win for Monson boys cross country.

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, the Monson High School boys cross country team defeated Monson 27-28. Danny Fiester was the overall winner with a finish of 17:04 while A.J. Linkenholder was next at 18:09. Jake Provost was sixth overall at 19:08. The girls were defeated 25-30, though Samantha Shrewsbury was the overall female winner at 23:58. Lilly Laskowski was fourth at 26:01.



Samantha Shrewsbury cross the finish for Monson.



Ava Ronaldson makes her way down the final stretch.



Lilly Laskowski makes a sprint to the finish.



A.J. Linkenholder emerges from the woods.



Jake Provost makes a line for the finish.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOCCER



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Gavin Baral gets ready to take a shot.

Pathfinder falls by shutout to Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Last Thursday was a perfect fall day weather-wise for a soccer match or any other outdoor event. It was also a perfect day for senior Max McCurdy and his South Hadley teammates.

McCurdy recorded his second hat-trick in a varsity soccer game, and four other players scored a goal, as the Tigers spoiled Pathfinder's senior day with a 7-0 shutout victory.

"This is my first hat-trick of the season, which is very nice, but getting the W is the most important thing to me," McCurdy said. "I'm very glad that we're even playing soccer this year. We're hoping to continue our unbeaten season."

McCurdy's first hat-trick of his varsity soccer career came in a 3-1 home win against Athol last October.

"My first hat-trick was at home against Athol and it was a great feeling," said McCurdy, who joined the varsity soccer team as a freshman. "This is also a very special day for me."

The Tigers' other four-year varsity players are seniors Ashton Sanford, Declan Joy, and Grant Petrosky, who isn't able to play soccer this season because of an injury.

South Hadley head coach



Wyatt Seibert chases down the ball.

Eric Castonguay hasn't coached very many soccer players like McCurdy in the past.

"Max is probably the most committed soccer player that I've coached in my 14 years at South Hadley High School," Castonguay said. "He's always working on drills by himself and he just loves soccer. He has a very high soccer IQ and he's our vocal leader. He's a very special soccer player."

The victory at Pathfinder improved South Hadley's overall season record to 4-0-1. The Tigers

PATHFINDER | page 10

HIGH SCHOOL

School shuts down sports, others join high-risk status

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After three weeks of being named "high-risk" communities for COVID-19, Holyoke High School became the first school outside of Springfield's schools to shut high school sports down.

Not only has Holyoke High

School shut down their sports, the remainder of the fall season has been officially cancelled according to a letter from Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos.

"The health and safety of our community must remain the top priority," stated Matos in a letter to the school community. "And

SHUTDOWN | page 10

SOCCER



Chelsea Bigos looks to clear the ball.

Tigers down Panthers

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday night, Chelsea Bigos had the lone goal for Palmer in a 4-1 loss against South Hadley. Sara Dresser made 17 saves.



Maddie Theriault dribbles her way toward midfield.



Gwen Duggan receives a pass and gets ready to move upfield.



Olivia Sloat tries to change the direction of play.



Goalie Sara Dresser makes a save.

Photos by Deanna Sloat

HIGH SCHOOL

Dowling nets \$10K prize in modified race at Stafford

STAFFORD, Conn. — Chase Dowling took the home-track advantage to Victory Lane in the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) Modified Classic 81 at Stafford Motor Speedway on Saturday night.

Dowling, the driver of the No. S&S Asphalt Paving machine owned by Ben Dodge, rolled to a dominant win in the inaugural Tri Track Open Modified Series race at the Connecticut half-mile. The race win came with a smooth \$10,000 check courtesy of CBYD and Tri Track — just a small portion of a purse that was

over \$58,000. Thirty-two cars started the race, while 51 Modifieds showed up in the pit area to attempt to qualify. It was the largest, and most talented, Modified field seen in a race in multiple decades of racing.

Dowling took the lead on lap 12, led through lap 30 when he pitted during a controlled caution, then blasted back to the front to take the top spot for the final time on lap 39. He would hold off Matt Hirschman on multiple restarts in the second half of the race to win.

STAFFORD | page 10

Hall of Fame Women’s Challenge to be held in at Mohegan Sun

UNCASVILLE – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the Hall of Fame Women’s Challenge scheduled for Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 29 at Mohegan Sun Arena will now be a part of “Bubbleville,” a large scale effort to house several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group are collaborating to produce multiple college basketball games at Mohegan Sun from November 25 through December 4, 2020, while providing a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements.

“The Hall of Fame Women’s Challenge has been held at Mohegan Sun Arena for many years in front of the tremendous UConn fan-base. While COVID-19 has forced us to reassess many events and safety protocols, we are proud to still be hosting these four outstanding teams in a world-class venue,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “We thank Mohegan Sun for their partnership and their diligence to produce this tournament in a bubble-like atmosphere.”

The Basketball Hall of Fame Women’s Challenge will feature local favorite and 11-time National Champions UConn (which joined the Big East Conference on July 1), Maine (America East Conference), Mississippi State (Southeastern Conference) and Quinnipiac (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference). Game times, television details and ticket information will be released at a later date.

T-Birds make donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Thunderbirds president Nathan Costa presented a check of \$15,000 to the Baystate Health Foundation for the Rays of Hope from proceeds raised by the sale of specialty pink jerseys worn at the 2020 Pink in the Rink Night last March this afternoon on the steps of city hall.

Each year since their inception, the Thunderbirds have held a Pink in the Rink Night to benefit the Rays of Hope, complete with participation by breast cancer survivors, pink ice, and pink specialty jerseys. The event has sold out each of the past four seasons, and has become a signature event in the area to raise awareness during the Spring months. This past season’s event took place on Saturday, March 7, and was again sold-out with a capacity crowd of 6,793.

“We at the Thunderbirds have been a dedicated supporter of the Baystate Health Foundation and the Rays of Hope from inception, and it’s with great admiration for the fight against breast cancer that we are able to make yet another significant contribution to the cause in what has been a very difficult year,” said president Nathan Costa. “Kathy, Michelle and the entire Baystate team have become like family to us, and we look forward to continuing this special partnership for years to come.”

The Thunderbirds Foundation has contributed over \$80,000 to the Baystate Health Foundation and the Rays of Hope through the proceeds of specialty jersey auctions from the annual Pink in the Rink Night.

“Baystate Health Foundation and Rays of Hope are so proud of our partnership with the Springfield Thunderbirds. Pink in the Rink was one of the last times we had the ability to be all together this year and the memory of that

evening is heartwarming. A huge thank you to the Thunderbirds organization, Thunderbirds Fans and our Pink Rays of Hope Army for your support that makes this generous donation possible. HOPE will never be cancelled. We look forward to our 27th Rays of Hope Walk and Run Toward the Cure in our new virtual model this Sunday.”

The check presentation occurred in association with the City of Springfield’s Pink and Denim Day. Each year, the Mayor’s office collects donations for the Rays of Hope, culminating in a day near the end of October where city employees can wear pink and denim to raise support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“We all have family and friends who have battled this challenge. My administration is proud to stand with those affected and Baystate Medical Center in continuing to raise funds to cure and beat this medical challenge. This year is extra special and I wish to congratulate our very own Al Rodriguez and his lovely wife Jackie for being named Baystate Health’s Rays of Hope chairs for 2020/2021. Such a wonderful and beautiful family who continues to show tremendous support not only to Jackie but to other breast cancer survivors too. Al, Jackie, and family good health and continued success,” Mayor Sarno said.

Thought it may look a little different than in past years, the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will continue in a hybrid model for 2020. Supporters are encouraged to walk or run anywhere, any time, during the month of the October, ending with a Parade of Hope on Sunday, Oct. 25 for all registered participants. For more information visit <http://bayhf.convio.net/>.

PATHFINDER | from page 9

tied Belchertown 1-1, who are the defending Division 3 state champions on October 6. They also defeated Amherst, Granby, and Palmer.

The Tigers have qualified for the Western Massachusetts Division 3 tournament during the past two years, but they haven’t been able to advance past the first round. There isn’t going to be a postseason tournament this fall because of COVID-19.

“It’s disappointing that we’re not going to have a chance to compete in the postseason tournament this year,” said Castonguay, who’s also the South Hadley Athletic Director. “We do have a very strong senior class and it would’ve been nice to see how we would’ve done in the tournament. We’re going to play as hard as we can in every game this year.”

The only highlight for the home team was the pre-game ceremony honoring the nine seniors. They are Gavin Baral Devin Bedard, Ryan Caron, Ethan Farrar, Nick Hein, Kieran Moe, Wyatt Siebert, Tom Swift, and Austin Tocci.

“Seven of the nine seniors are

four-year members of our soccer team,” said Pathfinder head coach Kevin Aldrich. “They’re a great bunch of kids, but our backs have been up against the wall in almost every game this year.

The Pioneers (1-4), who aren’t playing any other vocational school’s this fall, lone victory was a 1-0 win at Ware. The other teams on their schedule are Monson, Palmer, Granby, Belchertown, and Amherst, who’s a Division 1 team.

“Because of COVID, it was this schedule or no soccer at all this year,” Aldrich said. “We would rather be playing soccer. We’ve been trying to do our best in every game this year. It’s only going to make us better for next year.”

It didn’t take McCurdy, who’s hoping to continue his soccer career in college next year, very long to score his first goal in his team’s first meeting against the Pioneers in about twenty years.

After receiving a pass from junior Jonas Clarke, McCurdy chipped a shot into the right corner past Tocci, who was Pathfind-

er’s starting goalkeeper.

“I just got the ball in the box on my first goal and I shot it into the corner,” McCurdy said. “It was the first goal of the game and it gave us a lot more energy.

The Tigers only other first quarter goal was scored by sophomore Charlie Anischik with about three minutes remaining. Arya Kouzehkanani, who’s also a member of the sophomore class, was credited with the assist.

The score remained 2-0 until the final 30 seconds of the opening half. That’s when McCurdy lofted another shot over Tocci into the left corner, which was assisted by Joy.

The Tigers third goal was the difference maker in the game according to the Pathfinder head coach.

“The goal that they scored before halftime was a killer,” Aldrich said. “When you’re facing a good team, you just can’t afford to take a second off. If you take away the third quarter, it’s a much closer game.”

South Hadley scored four more goals during a ten-minute span in the middle of the third

quarter, which put the contest out of reach.


The Tigers first goal of the second half was scored by Sanford, who blasted a line-drive shot into the left corner past Tocci, who made a diving attempt to make the save. Senior Patrick Lavelle was credited with the assist.

Sanford assisted on the Tigers fifth goal, as McCurdy, who’s also a member of the Tigers track team, completed his memorable afternoon by slotting a low shot with his left foot into the right corner.

The Tigers final two goals of the match were scored by junior Liam Sibley-Welch and sophomore Colin Quinn.

South Hadley senior goalkeeper Tyler Evans made five saves in recording his first shut-out of the season. replaced by Lavelle at the start of the final quarter. It gave Evans the opportunity to play in the field for the first time this season.


Sophomore Sean Moon replaced Tocci in goal in the middle of the fourth quarter.



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Athlete of the Week

Danny Fiester

Monson High School

Fiester picked up the overall win for Monson in boys cross country against Belchertown.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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SHUTDOWN | from page 9

any future plans for athletics must continue to adapt to evolving public health metrics. We are writing to inform you that in consultation with the local Board of Health, and in alignment with City, State, and MIAA guidelines, the remainder of Holyoke High School’s fall sports season is canceled. This is unfortunate and extremely disappointing, especially for our student-athletes, coaches, and fans who were looking forward to a complete fall season. This move is necessary out of an abundance of caution. While difficult for all involved, our responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe.

“The City of Holyoke has been in the red category for three weeks, which represents four weeks of higher rates of spread of the coronavirus, largely due to small group gatherings where people are not following health and safety guidelines. Per the Department of Public Health, several other communities in the county are now also in the red category. HPS athletes and their families have been traveling to and playing in those communities as well.”

Holyoke entered its third week in high-risk status, though its rate of COVID cases had actually declined. Data was released late last Thursday

night. The state had been updating its high-risk status map on Wednesdays.

When Holyoke’s status went to high-risk, West Springfield refused to play against Holyoke and games between the two schools were postponed. Based on the information provided by Matos, it appears even if Holyoke’s status improves, there will be no resumption of fall sports.

Monson and Chicopee joined the ranks of high-risk communities by data released last Thursday.

A game between Chicopee and Ludlow boys soccer was postponed last Saturday morning, but it may not have been related to Chicopee’s status change as both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive were scheduled to have regular game action this week.

Amherst Regional, which currently shares a “bubble” with South Hadley, Granby, and Belchertown, moved to moderate risk. Amherst and Belchertown were set to resume matchups this week.

Belchertown, due to past precedent, will likely not play Monson until has been removed from high-risk status. There are about four weeks remaining in the abbreviated fall season.

STAFFORD | from page 9

While Dowling celebrated the victory, Hirschman clinched his fifth career Tri Track title driving the No. 60 Modified. Ronnie Williams made a late charge to finish second, followed by Hirschman, NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, who made his 2020 Tri Track debut, and Matt Swanson.

The major wreck of the race happened off turn two on lap 30, just after the cycle of controlled caution pit stops. After Doug Coby had a mechanical failure at the green flag and stacked up the outside lane, multiple cars wrecked, drawing a caution in turn one. It was in turn two where most of the carnage happened — with Woody Pitkat ending up halfway up the wall on his side. Pitkat, Jon McKennedy, Dave Sapienza and others escaped without injury, but were sidelined for the rest of the race.

After staying out early, NASCAR Cup Series star Ryan Preece elected to pit during a lap 39 caution, but was collected in a multiple-car wreck in turn three, ending his chances. The race came down to Dowling charging through and pulling away, while Williams, Hirschman and others tried to chase him down. Richard Savary finished sixth, followed by Les Hinckley, Todd Owen, Ron Silk and Burt Myers, who started from the pole.

Outside of the winning purse, and

the 32-car starting field worth of prizes, which included \$1,000 just to take the green flag, multiple drivers also increased their payday by winning contingency awards. One of the highlights was Owen, picking up the \$1,000 Green Construction Hard Charger award after having to take a promoter’s option into the race and start last. A full list of contingency winners is below.

Noah Korner was victorious in the 25-lap B-Main, advancing to the race along with Dylan Izzo, who finished second. Of the cars that went home, Blake Barney, who finished third in the B-Main, collected \$1,050 even though he didn’t qualify. All cars in attendance at Stafford were provided at least \$300 in awards for attempting to qualify.

Tri Track Contingency Awards, Stafford, October 24:

Green Construction Hard Charger (\$1,000): Todd Owen

Stone’s Performance & Parts Fastest Lap Award (\$300): Chase Dowling
Pepsi Challenge Heat Winners (\$300 each): Chase Dowling, Ryan Preece, Keith Rocco, Burt Myers, Ronnie Williams

Pepsi Challenge Consi Winners (\$300 each): Eric Goodale, Marcello Rufrano

TFR Hard Luck Award (\$500 Gift Certificate to TFR): Woody Pitkat (Car Owner: Stan Mertz)

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive

4. Undemanding

8. “_ your enthusiasm”

10. Well-known island

11. Not saintly

12. Habitual

13. Central parts of church buildings

15. Trust

16. Intestinal

17. Deep-bodied fish

18. Live up to expectations

21. Snag

22. Partner to haw

23. General’s assistant

(abbr.)

24. Sheep disease

25. Male term of endearment

26. United

27. Popular TV host

34. Overnights

35. Beloved British princess

36. Obtains from

37. Third Mughal Emperor

38. Shares the opinion of

39. Central European river

40. Feudal estates

41. KU hoops coach Bill

42. Spreads out for drying

CLUES DOWN

1. Picturesque island country

2. South Pacific

3. Shrub of the olive family

4. Establish the truth of

5. Unfettered

6. Originations

7. Famed English park

9. Sheep’s cry

10. Danced

12. More upstanding

14. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)

43. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan

17. Place to call a pint

19. Backs

20. Partner to cheese

23. Makes it there

24. Value

25. One’s convictions

26. Former CIA

27. Clashed

28. Affirmative

29. Journalist Tarbell

30. Athletic shoes


31. Roof style

32. Make possible

33. Make less dense

34. Healthy food

36. Silly



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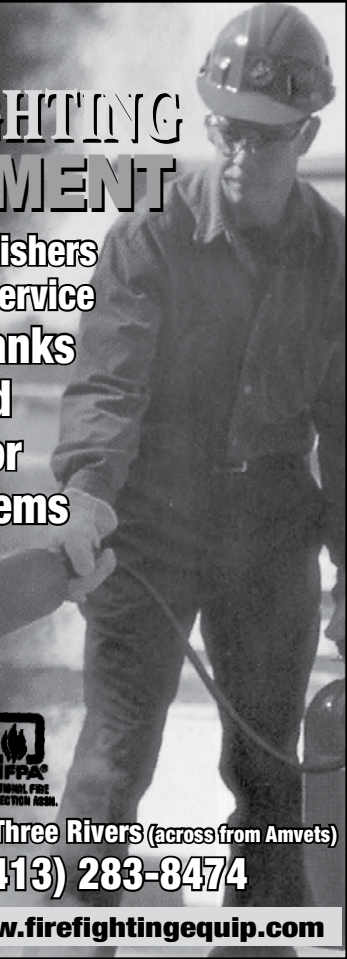
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DEATH NOTICES

Thomas Brown, 67
Died: Oct. 24, 2020
Burial Oct. 31 at 10 a.m.
in Brimfield Cemetery

Robert G. Lemoine, 82
Died: Oct. 20, 2020

Sheila M. Madigan, 73
Died: Oct. 25, 2020
Services were private

Peter Chlebus, 74
Died: October 22, 2020
Burial will be private

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Thomas Brown, 67

BRIMFIELD — Thomas James Brown, 67, passed away Oct. 24, 2020. He was born on Nov. 16, 1952, in Southbridge to the late Richard J. and Harriet E. (Tarbell) Brown. After serving in the Air Force Reserve and receiving his firefighting training, Tom was a career firefighter at Westover Air Reserve Base for 26 years before retiring in 2008. He also served on the Brimfield Fire Department for 52 years before retiring as Assistant Chief in 2018. He took

pride in working with the Boy Scouts of America, volunteering at Moses Scout Reservation, and serving as Scoutmaster to Brimfield Troop 7 for many years. He was a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, among others. Tom was an avid motorcyclist and enjoyed long rides with his friends in search of good BBQ. Tom is and will be deeply missed by his sister, Marilyn Sherris and her husband John of Brimfield, along with

his niece Laura Sherris and her husband Matthew O'Connell of Salem, Mass. Calling hours will be held 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at the Beers and Story Palmer Funeral Home. Burial will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, in Brimfield cemetery. Please meet directly at the cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brimfield Fire Fighters Association, 34 A Wales Rd. Brimfield, MA 01010, or to a charity of one's choosing. Please visit beersandstory.com.

Peter Chlebus 1945-2020

MONSON — Peter "Big Pete" Chlebus, 74, a longtime Monson resident, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, following an illness.

He was born in Palmer on Nov. 1, 1945, a son of the late John and Jenny (Dziergowski) Chlebus and educated in Monson Schools. He worked as roofer for over 45 years and was a proud member of the Local #33 and #248 retiring as an occupational roofer.

Pete loved hockey and was an exceptional player in his youth and his talent was good enough for the pros, but he chose a different path in life. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed deer hunting during shotgun season, fishing on the Quabbin and feeding the Eagles and was a former member of the Monson Rod & Gun Club. He loved the ocean,

watching old TV westerns and supported his Boston sports teams, especially the Patriots.

Pete is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mercy Ann (Steffano) Chlebus whom he wed in 1973 at St. Patrick's Church in Monson; his son, Peter Chlebus II and his wife Maura of Monson; his five step children; Robert Brow of Fla.; James Brow of Worcester; David Brow of Wales; Cindy Farquhar of Hampton, Conn., and Georgia Toniatti of Monson. He also leaves his brother, Fran Chlebus of Monson and a sister in law, Nicky Letourneau of Hampton. Pete will be missed dearly by his eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren: Nick Parker, Tiffany Vines, Jesse Farquhar, Jessica Wells, Sara Corrigan,



an, Taylor Sunderland, Cole and Connor Chlebus and Eva, Breslyn, Eli, Luci and Fiona. Pete will be missed by his many extended family members, friends, colleagues and fellow sportsmen.

Visitation was held on Oct. 27 at Lombard Funeral Home in Monson. His funeral began at 9 a.m. Oct. 28 at the funeral home and concluded with a Liturgy of Christian Burial in St. Patrick's Church in Monson. Burial was private in Bethany Cemetery.

If friends desire, memorial donations in Peter's name may be made to the Monson Fire Dept Ambulance Fund, PO Box 335, Monson, MA, 01057. Visit lombardfuneralhome.com for more details and to share online messages.

Robert Lemoine, 82

PALMER — Robert G. Lemoine, 82, passed away Oct. 20, 2020. Born April 25, 1938, in Ware, he was the son of George and Caroline (Cuireczak) Lemoine. Bob grew up in Gilbertville and graduated from Hardwick High School in the Class of 1955. He has lived in Palmer for most of his life and proudly worked for 40 years at Palmer Paving. Bob was a member of the former White Eagles Polish Club in Ware along with the Swift River Sportsmen's Club. During his retirement, he was a courier for Baystate Reference Labs. Bob was very proud of his

Polish heritage and enjoyed dancing and listening to Polish music, most especially the Eddie Forman Orchestra. He enjoyed time on Marco Island. Bob was a man that lived a full life and enjoyed a good time. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 42 years, Marie (Rondeau), his grandsons, Scott and Noah Lemoine and his children, Karen Lemoine of Ware and Alan Lemoine of Fla. He was predeceased by his son, Richard. Bob will be remembered fond-



ly by his many dear friends. Visitation was Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a memorial service at the St. Thomas Parish Center that took place on Monday. Donations may be made in Bob's memory to the Rondeau Scholarship c/o Palmer Lions, PO box 133, Palmer, MA 01069 or the American Lung Association, 45 Ash St., E. Hartford, CT 06108. For details, please visit beersandstory.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to six arrests or summons for arrests from Oct. 20 to Oct. 27. Note: Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

A juvenile arrest, 17, was arrested at 1:13 p.m. in Wilbraham Street in Palmer, on charges of failing to stop for the police; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; passing violation; failing to stop/yield

(red light) and operating a moped without a license.

Friday, Oct. 23

Raymond A. Nelson, 69, of 1353 Main St. Apt. #5, Palmer, was arrested at 6:21 p.m., on Main Street in Palmer after being subject to a warrant.

Scott M. McHugh, 38, of 150 Chilson Rd., Wilbraham, was arrested at 6:53 p.m., on Bourne Street in Three Rivers, on charges of vandalizing property; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; oper-

ating under the influence of liquor (second offense); vandalizing property and disorderly conduct.

Monday, Oct. 26

Jarod T. Dandurant, 41, of 4061 Main St., Thorndike, was taken into custody at 9:17 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, for an arrest warrant.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department had two summons from Oct. 18 to Oct. 24.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to five calls from Oct. 20 to Oct. 26.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 6:57 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Hill Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 7:36 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7:22 a.m., the department conducted an animal rescue on Peterson Road. The department returned to service at 8:05 a.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, at 10 a.m., the department responded to a chemical hazard on Willoughby Lane. The department returned to service at 10:29 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 21, at 7:26 a.m., the department conducted an odor investigation on Main Street

in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 7:53 p.m.

On Monday, Oct. 26, at 9:53 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Central Street. The department returned to service at 10:25 p.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to three calls from Oct. 20 to Oct. 26.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6:31 p.m., the department responded to motor vehicle accident on Emery Street. The department returned to service at 6:57 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 23, at 12:07 a.m., the department provided medical assistance with Belchertown Ambulance on Main Street. The department returned to service at

12:10 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:26 a.m., the department provided mutual aid to Main Street in Thorndike for a report of a possible gas leak. The department returned to service at 7:41 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two fire calls and 22 EMS calls from Oct. 19 to Oct. 25.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, at 12:31 p.m., the department responded to a fluid spill in the area of Hospital Road and Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 1:12 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, at 5:56 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm on Crow Hill Road. The department returned to service at 6:25 p.m.

COVID-19: How to have a safe and fun Halloween

SPRINGFIELD — That familiar sound of "Trick-or-Treat" at your door on Halloween, Oct. 31, may be a thing of the past for this year given the risks posed by COVID-19.

National and local experts have sounded the alarm on the threat of catching COVID-19 by door-to-door trick-or-treating or attending indoor parties or other alternative celebrations.

"With the exception of those who recently got infected with COVID-19 and survived, everyone including children is susceptible to this viral infection. Traditional activities during Halloween like door-to-door trick-or-treating by small children can pose a real risk of disease transmission. Individuals from different households come together within six feet of one another, touch and give away common treats, and may have difficulty in keeping facial masks on, particularly among the younger children," said Dr. Armando Paez, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Baystate Medical Center.

Some cities and towns like Springfield have cancelled trick-or-treating altogether, while others are leaving it up to residents and are providing coronavirus-related restrictions to keep kids and adults safe. Check with your city or town for their safe Halloween recommendations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are urging Americans not to trick-or-treat or attend indoor costume parties, labeling them as "high risk."

Other high-risk activities according to the CDC include:

Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots.

Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming.

Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household.

Traveling to a rural festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19.

The safest, according to Paez, "is anything virtual."

"COVID has changed so much today in our daily lives, both personal and work wise, and connecting with friends and family virtually, as well as holding virtual conferences and meetings has become the norm today during the pandemic," he said.

Meghan Brewer, Child Life Specialist III in the Child Life de-



partment at Baystate Children's Hospital, recommends the following safe "virtual" ideas to celebrate the "spooky" season:

Virtual Halloween Costume Contest

Pumpkin Decorating via Zoom with friends

Spooky Scavenger Hunts (set up in each person's house and started at the same time — looking for candy/treats/prizes instead of trick-or-treating)

Virtually listen to a spooky story at the same time.

Additional safe ways to enjoy Halloween, according to the CDC, include having a Halloween movie night at home with family members of the same household, carving and decorating pumpkins to display, or decorating your home together. For a full list of high, moderate and low risk activities when celebrating Halloween this year, visit: the COVID-19 and Halloween section on the CDC's COVID-19 website at cdc.gov.

Many states, including Massachusetts, have released their own guidelines concerning "what's safe, what's not" for Halloween. While there is no statewide mandate on how communities should address the challenge of celebrating the season, there are recommendations available on mass.gov/news/halloween-during-covid-19.

COVID aside, there are also healthy recommendations to consider for younger children who want to eat their way through the goodies in their Halloween bag in one sitting.

"Go through your child's bag and each day take out some candy and put it on the table for them to enjoy, maybe next to a nice fruit salad as well," said pediatric dietitian Nancy L. Anderson, MS, RD, CSP LDN at Baystate Children's Hospi-

tal.

"For the older kids, being restrictive just won't work and will backfire. Halloween is one day a year, and the candy may last a week or two, but then they're over it. Consider it part of their overall healthy diet and make sure during the year they are having plenty of fruits, veggies, cheese, yogurt, whole grains and more," she added.

Whatever way people choose to celebrate Halloween, Paez reminds everyone to follow some commonsense safety precautions that public health experts have been recommending since the start of the pandemic to keep you and others safe from COVID-19:

Wear a mask — a costume face mask is not a substitute for a cloth face mask

Social distance staying at least six feet apart from anyone not in your household

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

And don't go out when feeling sick and avoid contact with those who are sick.

Paez noted to keep in mind that other respiratory infections, such as flu, are more common during this time of the year.

"Remember, it's more important than ever before to get your flu shot this year," he said. "There is worry that there could be a possible widespread second wave of COVID-19 coinciding with the flu. That's why getting your flu shot now is more important than ever before."

For more information on Baystate Health, people may visit baystatehealth.org.

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Trust violated: Soldiers’ Home hearings depict a culture of noncompliance

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – A culture of poor health care, staff shortages and a lack of infection control measures at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke led to the COVID-19- related deaths of at least 76 elderly veterans this spring. On Oct. 20, family members of those killed or sickened by the unprecedented outbreak testified before a Joint Special Legislative Oversight Committee at Holyoke Community College.

For the speakers, a sense of closure was nowhere to be found. Present, however, was a platform to address a panel of concerned state senators and representatives.

Fighting back tears, loved ones emotionally detailed the negligent actions, lack of compassion and total absence of communication that transformed Holyoke’s “Gem on the Hill” into a facility marred by too many deaths.

Susan Kenney, a Ware resident, arrived at the podium to discuss her father’s last days. Charles Lowell, a 78-year-old U.S. Air Force veteran, succumbed to the novel coronavirus on April 15.

In the weeks leading to Lowell’s death, Kenney and her mother tried desperately to communicate with the Soldiers’ Home, a painstaking and largely unsuccessful endeavor. The total lack of transparency led Kenney to paint “Is my father alive?” on her vehicle and drive to the front of the facility, demanding answers.

“This could have been avoided. There were absolute treasures of people at that home,” said Kenney. “That’s the tragedy. People need to be held responsible for it. It needs to not happen again.”

Kenney explained that safety protocols had been ignored at the home long before the arrival of the pandemic. On numerous occasions, she complained to Chief Nursing Officer Vanessa Lauziere about a Certified Nursing Assistant, who would constantly kiss the veterans.

“It seemed to be for no purpose but to satisfy her own need,” said Kenney. “That’s my opinion; I understand that, but I also know from working in the health care field, it’s



Ware resident Susan Kenney was the first family member to testify about the conditions and problems at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home. She lost her father, Charles Lowell, to COVID-19, and 75 other veterans at the home died of virus as well.

not proper universal precautions or infection control standards. On March 11, I saw that same CNA, arm and arm with another veteran joking about the virus.”

In the aftermath of the outbreak, the facility’s former Superintendent Bennett Walsh and former Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Clinton were indicted by a state grand jury on five counts of neglect and mistreatment of an older or disabled person. If found guilty, Walsh and Clinton will face decades in prison.

The Oct. 20 hearing, which was scheduled to resume on Oct. 22, was co-chaired by State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, of Methuen, and Sen. Walter Timilty, of Milton. The panel also consisted of state officials including Sen. John Veils, Sen. James Welch, Rep. Joseph Wagner, Rep. Michael Finn and Rep. Aaron Vega.

Following Kenney’s testimony, East Longmeadow resident Cheryl Turgeon took to the microphone. Turgeon’s father, 90-year-old Korean veteran Dennis Thresher, survived his bout with COVID-19,

but has been unable to walk since March 28.

Turgeon offered a harrowing description of the conditions that surviving Soldiers’ Home residents have faced over the past six months. Due to inactivity, Thresher has developed pressure ulcers, depression and nearly had his left toe and right foot amputated on account of neglect.

“Their loneliness, their feelings of abandonment and being forgotten is clearly evident,” she said. “They are not allowed outside many days. No fresh air, no sunshine and no Vitamin D. Even our incarcerated individuals have recreational opportunities outside while these veterans stay in their room for weeks on end still.”

The facility’s inability or unwillingness to communicate with the families of veterans who reside in the home has also angered Turgeon. She noted the administration consistently responds to inquiries by saying, “I hear you,” without divulging an actual answer.

“I don’t believe the current ad-

ministration fully understands the veteran or the mission of the home. We’re tired of their indifferent opinions [pertaining to] communication with us still,” said Turgeon, who also complained about the absence of dental care and eye exams.

Roberta Twining, also of East Longmeadow, spoke on behalf of her 77-year-old husband Timothy Twining, a former paratrooper and retired Springfield police sergeant, who contracted the virus in the home.

“When the pandemic was hovering over our lives, the staff was not being transparent. I later learned that they were instructed not to tell our families anything,” said Twining.

At the onset of the outbreak, veterans were consolidated due to a lack of staffing. Twining described the horrid conditions that faced her husband, a veteran, who was subjected to what several family members and employees have categorized as being Holocaust-like conditions.

“They moved him to the fourth



Courtesy photos by Holyoke Community College
John and Cheryl Turgeon of East Longmeadow testify about conditions at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home during hearings Tuesday in Holyoke.

floor, squeezed him in a room with two others and his bed was against the wall. He also stated that he had no walker, wheelchair or buzzer and literally had to crawl and hold onto the walls to get to the bathroom down the hall,” said Twining, who said he was denied a shower for 17 days.

Over the span of a week, Twining’s husband was moved five times, yet she never received a call or email. Fortunately, Twining survived his ailment, but his struggles have persisted nonetheless.

“Everything continues to be a secret. It appears that this board has a gag order on the staff not to tell the families anything,” she said. “My husband says that they lie and treat him and I like we’re idiots.”

The individuals who took the stand on Tuesday complimented the effort of the facility’s courageous and undermanned staff, who put their lives at risk when COVID-19 began to make its mark. Twining firmly believes that the facility’s board continues to jeopardize the operation.

“It wasn’t that [staff] weren’t caring; they were doing all they could. It’s that their hands were tied. I believe that their hands are still tied and that they’re muzzled now too,” said Twining, who stated that without the arrival of the National Guard, “our precious home would have totally been wiped out.”

All in all, five family members of veterans who were killed or sickened by COVID-19 testified on Oct. 20. Laurie Mandeville-Beaudette, who’s father passed away in April, sadly noted that in recent weeks the facility removed signs that were posted on the campus to honor the lives that were lost.

“They just want us to go away,” she said.

Timilty responded immediately, voicing his disgust. He assured Beaudette and the other family members that the signs would be recovered if possible.

Following each speaker, Campbell extended her deepest sympathies. Unlike the facility’s board, she made it clear the panel will not fail to act.

“We have great concern about ongoing communication issues now and also staffing issues now, and other issues that we will take immediate action on. Your perspectives are very much appreciated and will be helpful to us as we move forward,” she said.

The committee has a deadline of March 31, 2021 to complete its investigation and submit a report to the state. Testimonials from the Oct. 22 hearing will be featured in next week’s edition.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

MASTER PLAN FORUMS

The Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee will hold four upcoming forums visible on M-PACT channel 15, Facebook Live and Zoom. These will all start at 6:30pm. The first one is Oct. 29 and will be focused on transportation and mobility. This element will summarize Palmer's existing traffic network and will assess the various transportation modes available now and in the future. Walking, biking, and transit will be explored, in addition to understanding vehicular traffic opportunities and constraints. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Town Planner Linda Leduc at lleduc@townofpalmer.com or 283-2605.

SAME KOC FUNDRAISER, BUT ONLINE THIS YEAR

The Knights of Columbus, Palmer Council #376, will be accepting donations for its annual Tootsie Roll fundraising drive to support people with intellectual disabilities after the weekend Masses. However, because of COVID-19 restrictions, they will not be collecting donations in front of True Value Hardware. Instead, they set up a Go Fund Me page at [charity.gofundme.com/Masskootsiesroll](https://www.gofundme.com/Masskootsiesroll).

ONLINE RAFFLE TO BENEFIT MONSON LIBRARY

The Friends of the Monson Free Library are holding an on line raffle to benefit library programs and the purchase of museum passes. Get chances to win a microbrew gift case, a hand-knot scarf and more. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 15 for \$10 and must be purchased by Nov. 11. The drawing is Nov. 18. To order tickets or see photos of the prizes, email friends.monsonfreelibrary@gmail.com.

SOON

The Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee is holding a series of forums you can participate in on M-PACT channel 15, Facebook Live and Zoom. These will all start at 6:30pm. The schedule is as follows:

Nov. 19: The discussion is on housing. This element will provide a summary of the town's housing stock and will assess the need to supplement that inventory with future housing choices. Key to this chapter is understanding demographic changes, household incomes, and employment.

Dec. 17: The fifth interactive forum focuses on the element of climate adaptation and sustainability. Leveraging the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, this element will look at the Town's climate projections and vulnerability analysis to comprehensively address future climate change through methods of resiliency.

Jan. 28: The focus is on natural resources, open space and recreation. Referencing the town's certified Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2015, this element will expand upon that plan's contents to address needs in consideration of projected population trends. An important aspect of this element will be weighing the trade-offs between various land uses and competing

demands.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Town Planner Linda Leduc at lleduc@townofpalmer.com or 283-2605.

INTERESTS

THE QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club meets every Thursday at Monson Senior Center on Main Street in Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

DIAMOND NATIONAL/CASCADES DIAMOND. Did you every work there? Former employees meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Burgundy Brook Restaurant on Route 181 in Palmer from 9-10 a.m. The stories shared are often colorful but old friendships are renewed.

PALMER LIBRARY UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:

Virtual Harry Potter Trivia Night for All Ages - 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30: The Palmer Public Library presents a fun night of virtual (via Zoom) trivia for all age about the Wizarding World of Harry Potter! Play solo or if you'd like to play on a team, recruit members of your household, or teammates that can play with you through a phone or video call. Have your team name ready and come in costume for our virtual intermission costume extravaganza! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

Palmer Public Library Virtual Reader's Circle - Wednesdays, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 6-7 p.m.. Join the new monthly all-genres Virtual Reader's Circle! Have you read a great book that you want to share with others? Are you looking for new book or author recommendations? Join us for this brand new, all genres welcome, informal, friendly virtual monthly book discussion meet-up via Zoom! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

Palmer Public Library Virtual Cookbook Club - Thursdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 6-7 p.m.

Do you love to cook or bake and talk about food? Join our new monthly online cookbook club to learn and share recipes! Pick a recipe from your favorite cookbook, place a hold on a cookbook from our catalog for curbside pickup, or download one from our digital catalog. Make the recipe, and then chat via Zoom with others about how it turned out. Have fun while sharing and discovering recipes and cooking tips! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

ONGOING

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.

MARTHA'S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monson Council on Aging invites seniors over age 60 to its luncheon program every Monday – Friday at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. Home cooked meals are always served at noon. The requested donation of \$2.50 includes the entrée, bread, dessert and beverage. Menus are available in the COA newsletter. Luncheon reservations must be made by 2:30 p.m. the day before you would like to come to lunch. For more info or van reservations, call 267-4121.

GAME NIGHT will be held at Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Public Library the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7:45 p.m. There is no fee or registration required, and attendants must be 16 years of age or older unless accompanied by an adult. Games include Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Rummy, Chess, Checkers, Uno, Yahtzee, Bridge, Skipbo, Crazy 8's, Hearts, Dominos, etc. Attendees may bring their own. For more information call 283-2329 or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-267-5025.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield include strength training classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.; Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.; gentle arthritis and chair yoga combo classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; bingo on the second and fourth Wednesday of the monthly (\$1 per card, 25 cents per game, cover-all price \$10); There is a suggested donation of \$2 for 55 and up and \$3 for under 55. Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with reservations required by 11 a.m. on the previous day. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Plarning, crocheting and knitting is offered the first Friday of each month and massage with Vicki is offered the third Tuesday of the month from 9:15-11:15 a.m., by appointment only. The cost is \$5 for 10 minutes and \$15 for 20 minutes. For more information call 413-245-7253.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. The hiking trails and the sculpture garden are open daily until dusk. For more information call 413-267-5210, email khhm@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.org

BAYSTATE WING AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP sells unique merchandise at reasonable prices. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some weekend hours extended during the holidays. All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Hospital, a major part of the community, and provide scholarships to seniors graduating from local high schools. Call 413-370-8169 for more information.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee that holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Polish American Citizens Club, 7 Bliss St., Monson at 7 p.m.

HAVE YOU HAD A BABY RECENTLY? If you are living in the Palmer, Monson or surrounding communities and you have a newborn baby, call the Palmer Monson Family Network at 283-6246 to get your free canvas bag packing with information for you and practical goodies for your baby. The Family Network, a Collaborative for Educational Services program, is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

PLAY & LEARN DROP-IN TIME is happening throughout the school year at the Palmer Monson Family Network on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11:30am. The free playgroup includes free play time, snack and circle time and is open to all families and caregivers and their children from 0-5 years old. All PMFN programs are free. The PMFN is located at 4 Springfield St. in Three Rivers and is a program of the Collaborative of Education-

al Services and receives funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care. For more information call 283-6246.

INFANT AND TODDLER TIME at the Palmer Monson Family Network is available for families with little ones from 0-24 months of age. The free program happens throughout the school year on Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and provides a fun environment for families and caregivers to connect with others with young children. Snack and circle time are included. Call 283-6246 for more information.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 40 Brimfield Holland, has announced the following recurring events: Stay Fit classes with Sharon on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Dance Fit with Alice on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Low Impact Workout with Debbie Si-chol on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Yoga with Sharon on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Tai Chi with David Masera every other Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information call 413-245-3163.

STORYTELLING WITH COLLEEN LOWE-SMITH at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. In this group, participants will reflect together on life experiences and practice the art of listening as well as telling. Celebrate one another's unique stories, inspire one another, create empathy, discover wisdom, and provoke one another to reflect more deeply on one's own experiences. Participants are welcome to just listen or to tell a story. There is no cost for this program. Call 413-245-7253 for further information.

FRIDAY ZUMBA CLASSES are offered at the Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., Palmer, on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired cardio-dance workout that uses music and choreographed steps to form a fitness party atmosphere. People of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcome. Erin Wallace, certified Zumba Fitness instructor, gauges abilities and makes sure everyone exercises safely. The fee is \$25 for five classes or \$7 for drop-in. For more information, contact Wallace at 413-668-7284 or wallacee413@gmail.com.

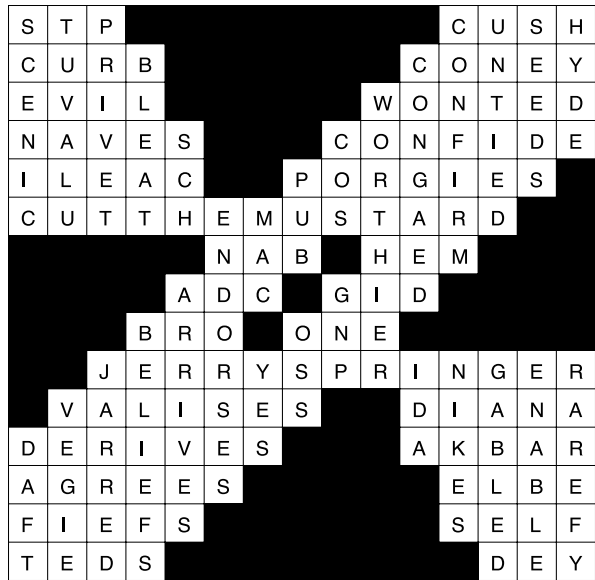
ELBOW PLANTATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets the second Thursday of every month (except July, August, January and February in the community room of the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer from 2-4 p.m.

KIDS' CHESS CLUB is hosted at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer on Tuesday afternoons in the community room from 4-5 p.m. All ages are welcome, including kindergarten through grade 12, families and adults. There is no need to sign-up. For more information contact William Nolte at 413-596-9021.

TICK TALK – A Lyme disease support group of Monson will meet at Grace Community Church at the Norcross House, 125 Main St., Monson the last Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-noon. The group can be found online at facebook.com/monsonlymesupport/ or monsonlymesupport.com.

FREE PLAYGROUP sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation Five Grant at Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield. Music and Movement on Wednesday, 9-9:45 a.m. and Playgroup on Monday and Thursday 9-11 a.m. For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org or call 413-245-9977.

A NEW, ONGOING ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholic/Dysfunctional Families) will be held on Friday nights at the First Church of Monson, 5 High St., Monson. ACA is a 12-step support group for adults raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family. "Another Way to Live" will meet at 6:30 p.m. Voluntary donations only.



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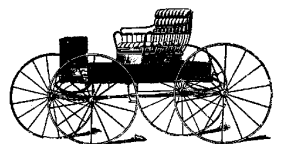
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tact Tim Reeves at Sherman Oil **508-
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Monson is seeking a full-time Water
Quality and Service Manager to provide
technical work to operate and maintain
the water and sewer systems. License
requirements include Massachusetts
CDL Class B Driver's, Hoisting 2A,
D-2 and T-1 Certified Operator of
Drinking Water Facilities. Minimum 5
years' experience as certified operator
with experience in both treatment and
distribution aspects; and supervisory
experience. 10 days paid vacation
after 90 days continuous employ-
ment, salary min \$24.93 max \$31.13.
Contact the Monson Water & Sewer
Dept. at tel. (413) 267-4130, fax (413)
267-4106, or e-mail monsonws@mon-
son-ma.gov. To obtain a Employment
Application visit www.monson-ma.gov
Forms & Documents / Water & Sewer
Department. Completed applications
will be accepted at the Monson Water
& Sewer Department, 198WD Main
Street, P.O. Box 388, Monson, MA
01057 until filled.
This institution is an equal opportunity
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or, religion, sex, handicap, familial sta-
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or discrimination." We will not knowing-
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tate which is in violation of the law. All
persons are hereby informed that all
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an equal opportunity basis.

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For Information call
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17 Convent Hill,
Ware, MA



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a boat, small equipment, motorcycle,
etc. Call **(413)289-6729**

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cility Ware. Boats, RV's, Jet Skis.
(413)531-3722 Mary

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In Aruba. The water is safe, and the
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Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com
for more information.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this
newspaper is subject to the Federal
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it illegal to advertise any preference,
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familial status (number of children and
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,
age, marital status, or any intention to
make any such preference, limitation or
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept
any advertising for real estate that is in
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby
informed that all dwellings advertising in
this newspaper are available on an equal
opportunity basis. To complain about
discrimination call The Department of
Housing and Urban Development "HUD"
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll
free number for the hearing impaired is
1-800-927-9275.

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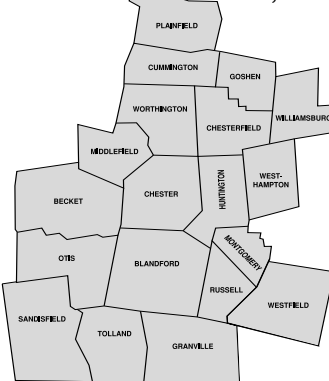
DEADLINES:

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

**Quabbin
Village Hills**
Circulation:
50,500

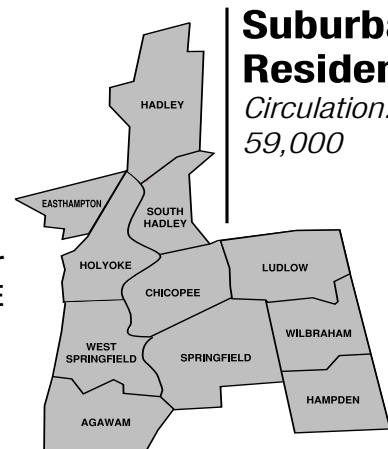


Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or
the Suburban Residential ZONE
for \$26.00 for 20 words plus
50¢ for each additional word.
Add \$10 for a second Zone
or add \$15 to run in
ALL THREE ZONES.



**Suburban
Residential**
Circulation:
59,000



First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**
Subtotal _____
x Number of Weeks _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the
following ZONE(s):
☐ Quabbin
☐ Suburban
☐ Hilltowns

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Public notices

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600

Docket No. HD20P1777EA
Estate of:
Louise Anne Marie
Bradway
Also Known As:
Louise Ann Bradway,
Louise A. Bradway
Date of Death:
07/06/2020

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested
in the above captioned estate,
by Petition of Petitioner
Karen M. Benson of
Warren, MA, a Will has been
admitted to informal probate.

Karen M. Benson of
Warren, MA has been informally
appointed as the Personal Representative
of the estate to serve **without**
surety on the bond.

The estate is being
administered under informal
procedure by the Personal
Representative under the
Massachusetts Uniform Probate
Code without supervision
by the Court. Inventory
and accounts are not
required to be filed with the
Court, but interested parties
are entitled to notice regarding
the administration from the
Personal Representative and
can petition the Court in
any matter relating to the
estate, including distribution
of assets and expenses
of administration. Interested
parties are entitled to petition
the Court to institute formal
proceedings and to obtain
orders terminating or restricting
the powers of Personal
Representatives appointed
under informal procedure.
A copy of the Petition and
Will, if any, can be obtained
from the Petitioner.
10/29/2020

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD20C0182CA
In the matter of:
Katlyn Lee Furst
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME

A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been
filed by Katlyn Lee Furst
of Holland, MA requesting
that the court enter a Decree
changing their name to:

Ashton Walter Clarke
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear
for purposes of objecting
to the petition by filing an
appearance at: **Hampden
Probate and Family Court**
**before 10:00 a.m. on the
return day of 11/16/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing
date, but a deadline by
which you must file a written
appearance if you object
to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon.
Barbara M Hyland, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: October 21, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/29/2020

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600

Docket No. HD17P0940EA
Estate of:
Linda Gale Johnson
Date of Death:
01/04/2017

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested
in the above captioned
estate, by Petition of Petitioner
James R Johnson of
Northeast, MD.

James R Johnson of
Northeast, MD has been
informally appointed as the
Personal Representative of
the estate to serve **without**
surety on the bond.

The estate is being
administered under informal
procedure by the Personal
Representative under the
Massachusetts Uniform Probate
Code without supervision

by the Court. Inventory
and accounts are not
required to be filed with the
Court, but interested parties
are entitled to notice regarding
the administration from the
Personal Representative and
can petition the Court in
any matter relating to the
estate, including distribution
of assets and expenses
of administration. Interested
parties are entitled to petition
the Court to institute formal
proceedings and to obtain
orders terminating or restricting
the powers of Personal
Representatives appointed
under informal procedure.
A copy of the Petition and
Will, if any, can be obtained
from the Petitioner.
10/29/2020

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD20A0070AD
In the matter of:
Kyleigh Rose
Pietrzykowski

CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
To: Frank Pietrzykowski
any unnamed or unknown
parent and persons interested
in a petition for the
adoption of said child
and to the Department of
Children and Families of said
Commonwealth.

A petition has been
presented to said court by:
William Gene Grimaldi,
III of Bondsville, MA;
Kirsten R Pietrzykowski of
Bondsville, MA requesting
for leave to adopt said child
and that the name of the child
be changed to

Kyleigh Rose Grimaldi

If you object to this
adoption you are entitled
to the appointment of an
attorney if you are an indigent
person. An indigent
person is defined by SJC
Rule 3:10. The definition
includes but is not limited to
persons receiving TAFDC,
EACDC, poverty related
veteran's benefits, Medicaid,
and SSI. The Court will
determine if you are indigent.
Contact an Assistant
Judicial Case Manager or
Adoption Clerk of the Court
on or before the date listed
below to obtain the necessary

forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO
OBJECT THERETO, YOU
OR YOUR ATTORNEY
MUST FILE A WRITTEN
APPEARANCE IN SAID
COURT AT: **Springfield** on
or before ten o'clock in the
morning (10:00 a.m.) on:
11/24/2020.

WITNESS, Hon.
Barbara M Hyland, First
Justice of this Court.

Date: October 06, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/29, 11/05, 11/12/2020

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SLATE ROOF REPAIRS

**Unitarian Universalist
Parish of Monson
177 MAIN STREET
MONSON,
MASSACHUSETTS 01057**

The Unitarian
Universalist Parish of
Monson, the Awarding
Authority, invites sealed bids
for the Slate Roof Repairs,
177 Main Street, Monson,
Massachusetts 01057. The
project is being partially
funded with a grant from the
Massachusetts Preservation

Projects Fund through the
Massachusetts Historical
Commission. All work to
be performed in accordance
with the documents prepared
by Roy S. Brown Architects,
85 Chilson Road, Wilbraham,
Massachusetts 01095, and
meet the Secretary of the
Interior's Standards for the
Treatment of Historic Properties.
State law prohibits discrimination.
Awarding of this contract is
subject to Affirmative Action
and Equal Opportunity
guidelines.

The work involves various
slate roof repairs, as well
as various masonry repairs.
Estimated construction cost
is seventy thousand dollars
(\$ 70,000).

Digital copies of the
drawings and specifications
may be obtained by emailing
requests to the office of
Roy S. Brown Architects at
rsba85@yahoo.com after
Wednesday, October 28,
2020 at 2:00 pm.

**A project walk-thru is
Wednesday, November
04, 2020 at 10:00 am. All
COVID-19 protocols
required at the time of the
walk-thru will be enforced.**
Bids will be accept-

ed from eligible bidders
by emailed to the office of
Roy S. Brown Architects at
rsba85@yahoo.com **until
2:00 pm, Wednesday,
November 18, 2020.**

Bidders shall have completed
work similar in material,
design, and extent to that
indicated for this Project
with a record of successful
projects in service performance.
Bidders shall submit
information indicating at
least five (5) years experience
in slate roof installation.
Bidders must also submit
information indicating they
have performed slate roof
repair and/or replacement on
three (3) or more buildings
listed in the state or national
register of historic places,
or listed as a local historic
landmark within the last five
(5) years.

Bids shall be evaluated on
the basis of price, previous
experience with similar types
of construction projects, and
references.

Mary Gelezunas, President
10/22, 10/29/2020

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Latest advances in immunotherapy for breast cancer

SPRINGFIELD — If you've heard of immunotherapy — using the immune system to fight cancer — you might think it's a new idea hatched by scientists in the last couple of decades. But immunotherapy was pioneered in 1891 by William Coley, MD, often considered the "father of immunotherapy."

Coley noticed that a patient who had a bacterial infection at the same time as their cancer got better. To test whether the immune system might fight cancer if properly triggered, he injected bacteria into a man with neck cancer. The patient lived another eight years. That success suggested that the body's own immune system could be used to fight cancer.

“Immunotherapy has transformed cancer care in the past five years, especially, allowing many cancer patients to live years longer than they would have had they been diagnosed even a year or two earlier,” said Dr. Dawn Brooks, a medical oncologist in the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Medical Center, who specializes in treatment of patients with breast and lung cancers.

Chemotherapy, in addition to surgery and radiation, has become central to cancer care since Dr. Coley conducted those early experiments. Then in the 1970s, scientists developed a form of immunotherapy that improved treatment for bladder cancer. In the years since, researchers around the world have continued to work to expand the success of immunotherapy to treat cancer, with advances developing at a rapid rate over the past several years.

Cancer, at its core, is a failure of the immune system to recognize a dangerous cell and destroy it before it multiplies out of control. Immunotherapy “teaches” the immune system to recognize and attack the dangerous cells. Cancer immunotherapy refers to several approaches and treatments. You may have heard of these terms, which fall under the immunotherapy umbrella: targeted antibodies, cancer vaccines, adoptive cell transfer, tumor-infecting

viruses, checkpoint inhibitors and cytokines.

Another important feature of immunotherapy is how patients feel while they are on treatment. Patients today have a lot fewer side effects than from chemotherapy and can enjoy a better lifestyle.

Melanoma, kidney and lung cancer were some of the earliest to benefit from these recent advances in immunotherapy, according to Dr. Brooks. But today immunotherapy can be part of a successful treatment plan for breast cancer, too.

"We've been excited to have immunotherapy become a treatment option for certain breast cancer patients and are optimistic that more groups of breast cancer patients will come to benefit from immunotherapy over the next few years," she said.

Immunotherapy offers hope for breast cancers that are triple negative - an aggressive, difficult-to-treat form of cancer. Triple-negative breast cancer cells lack estrogen, progesterone and HER2 receptors, features that make other types of breast cancer respond well to treatments that specifically block these receptors. Because of this lack of targets on the cancer cells, chemotherapy remained the only type of drug for treating patients with triple negative breast cancer, while significant advances were being made in treatment of other types of breast cancer. Treating triple-negative breast cancer with immunotherapy has been an exciting possibility for cancer researchers seeking additional treatment options for patients with these hard to treat cancers.

Metastatic breast cancer is cancer that has spread beyond the breast. When this has happened, medication is used to try to shrink or slow the growth of cancer.

In March 2019, the Food and Drug Administration approved an immunotherapy drug called Tecentriq® for use in combination with a form of chemotherapy to treat

